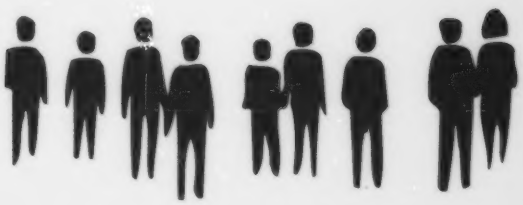
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS



PROVINCIAL PARKS & WILDERNESS FOR THE 90s

91-06901/

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO PARKS AND WILDERNESS FOR THE 90s

SEPTEMBER, 1991

A summary of information received during public review of the Provincial Parks and Wilderness System Planning Programs, including comments on proposed study areas.

Ministry of Lands and Parks

Ministry of Forests

BC
P37

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
Main entry under title:
Summary of public response to parks and wilderness for the 90s

Co-published by: Ministry of Forests.
Cover title: Summary of public comment.
ISBN 0-7726-1415-6

1. Parks - British Columbia - Planning - Public opinion. 2. Wilderness areas - British Columbia - Planning - Public opinion. 3. Public opinion - British Columbia. I. British Columbia. BC Parks. II. British Columbia. Ministry of Forests. III. Title: Summary of public comments.

SB484.C3S85 1991 333.78'16'09711 C91-092283-7

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1990, British Columbia undertook its first systematic planning program for large protected areas. Previous decisions to designate protected areas have been made without the benefit of a guiding provincial context or plan. In the past, BC Parks was responsible for the only large protected areas — provincial parks and ecological reserves. In 1987, however, the B.C. Forest Service acquired a new responsibility for wilderness management in provincial forests.

Current land use pressures and the potential for a duplication of programs have made increased co-operation between agencies a priority. As a result, BC Parks and the Recreation Branch of the B.C. Forest Service amalgamated their protected area planning programs in December 1990, into a co-ordinated system planning initiative called *Parks and Wilderness for the 90s*. This project is intended to be the first step in a long-term public planning process for protected areas, designed to evaluate an inventory of potential study areas for park or wilderness designation.

In February 1991, the agencies sponsored open houses and public meetings in 104 communities across the province. The aim was to solicit public advice on the process being undertaken, on the goals for parks and wilderness areas, and on the existing inventory of areas proposed for future study. This information was presented on two working maps emanating from the individual agency programs — Parks Plan 90 for provincial parks and Wilderness for the '90s for provincial forest wilderness areas. Over 11,000 people attended these public events and approximately 3,500 letters, briefs and response forms were received. Collectively, the data base created from this public process is the most comprehensive ever received on protected areas in British Columbia.

The results of this public review will be used to complement previous public comment received from the BC Parks Householder Survey and expressed on the B.C. Forest Service policy paper "Managing Wilderness in Provincial Forests."

This summary report "outlines" the main topics raised by individuals, groups and organizations during the public events, in subsequent written submissions, and in meetings between agency staff and interested groups and individuals. Topics were developed from a representative sample of public comment. Under each is a summary description of what was said. Each section contains a statement reflecting the essence of public comments, several quotations that illustrate the diversity of opinions, and several pertinent comments taken from the record and summarized in point form. This report aims at describing, in condensed form, the opinion and advice offered by the public. It does not interpret how that advice might be applied to policy development or the assessment of study area status.

Public response to Parks and Wilderness for the 90s shows the wide variation in views that exists in almost every aspect of planning and designating protected areas. This body of public advice will be extremely valuable in guiding strategic planning for parks and wilderness, in setting priorities for future study, and in providing a base on which to build public preferences about specific study areas. Parks and Wilderness for the 90s will also become a key component in the development of any overall provincial land use strategy for British Columbia.

BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service will use this record of public advice, along with their own technical evaluation of study area proposals, to recommend a provincial program for planning and designating provincial parks and wilderness areas.

Following are the major topics from the record of public comment.

General Responses to Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

- British Columbians take pride in the quality of their natural environment and generally support provincial parks and wilderness areas as an important means of protecting natural and cultural values. However, the degree of expansion required in the system and the process for making these decisions are subject to a great variety of opinion.

- Although strong support exists for a systematic, inter-agency approach to planning for protected areas, the intent of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s was not clear to many people. Many respondents expressed extreme concern that park or wilderness designations would be a direct result of the public review process, rather than simply clarifying an inventory of potential future study areas.

- Proponents for expanding parks and wilderness areas offer strong arguments for preserving biodiversity and special natural and cultural values. Equally strong arguments were made for protecting the employment and economic benefits derived from the landscape. A wide array of concerns was expressed about the potential impacts on resource-dependent communities and rural lifestyles from such sweeping proposals for protected area studies.

- People appreciated the opportunity to express their views early in the parks and wilderness planning process through the public meetings and open houses. Staff were highly commended for their efforts and availability.

- While many people commented on the overwhelming amount of information presented, confusion over the intent of the process also resulted in some criticism that there was insufficient detail to permit feedback on specific study area proposals.

- Many people expect public consultation to continue as the system planning process evolves, and voiced a strong desire for increased participation of affected local interests.

- With several provincial land use initiatives currently in progress under different titles, many people expressed skepticism about government commitment to yet another process and requested assurances that these parallel initiatives would be integrated.

- For a systematic approach to protected areas planning to be successful, many respondents saw the need to have the commitment and participation of other regulatory agencies, particularly those responsible for Crown lands, native affairs, tourism, fish, wildlife and water.

BC Parks' Role and Goals for Provincial Parks

- Most respondents confirmed support for the role and mandate of BC Parks, and for a first-class system of provincial parks in British Columbia. BC Parks was complimented frequently for airing the park system plan publicly, and encouraged to increase its role in managing outdoor recreation in British Columbia.

- Other respondents felt that BC Parks should concentrate efforts on the recreation management part of its mandate in existing parks, rather than on the creation of new parks.

- Strongest opposition to an expanded parks system came from people who were concerned that park status would reduce or eliminate traditional or future recreational or industrial opportunities.

- Arguments were presented that demand for new large parks was not yet proven and that, at the very least, decisions should be made within a comprehensive planning process.

- BC Parks' goals for conserving representative landscapes were referred to more frequently than the stated recreation goals, particularly in fulfilling a need to protect biodiversity and wildlife.

- Many people concurrently called for a greater number of small parks dedicated to recreational pursuits for local people, particularly near large urban centres.

- New goals were suggested to accommodate trail and river corridor parks, saltwater marine parks, and regional and municipal parks.

- Many people supported the exclusion of timber harvesting and mineral exploration from parks, and some questioned the compatibility of park values with trapping, guiding, hunting, heli-hiking, heli-skiing and private tourism developments. In many cases, such activities — particularly commercial activities — were considered to be contrary to the intent of park designation.

- Proposals were also made for relaxing current restrictions in parks to allow industrial and commercial developments on a reduced scale, and perhaps to zone park land for these uses.

- Many respondents favoured increased access to parks for a wider cross-section of the public, and called for a renewed emphasis on facility development to meet recreational demands. Demands for new recreational uses in parks, it was argued, required development of a broader range of facilities as well.

- Some people voiced dissatisfaction with the level of maintenance and monitoring in existing parks and requested that this be corrected before public funds are invested in additional park areas. Poor maintenance performance was often linked to reduced staff levels on site and to the privatization of service functions.

B.C. Forest Service Role and Goals for Wilderness

- Respondents generally favoured a provincial system of wilderness areas, but there was no base of experience with this new program. Comments on wilderness were often made, therefore, within the context of experience with provincial park management.

- Support for wilderness was expressed by conservation interests and by many people who believed that the more relaxed management regime envisioned for wilderness areas was often more realistic than the strong restrictions encountered in provincial parks. Other respondents questioned the adequacy of wilderness protection when commercial and industrial activities could be permitted. These activities were seen as being incompatible with wilderness goals.

- Many respondents expressed serious concerns over the potential impacts of wilderness on resource-dependent communities. The potential loss of timber harvesting opportunities was considered by many people to be the primary consideration in the decision-making for wilderness designation.

- A common concern was whether the B.C. Forest Service could be trusted to promote both timber harvesting and wilderness management. Conversely, respondents from resource-based industries accused the Forest Service of deserting its primary forest industry client group in the face of public controversy over wilderness preservation.

- The term "wilderness" was questioned by some proponents and opponents of it. Proponents define wilderness as being exclusive of industrial activities. Opponents see debates over potential wilderness as creating unrealistic public expectations for protection.

- Biodiversity and ecological representation were commonly cited goals for identifying wilderness candidates. Concerns were raised about the large number of wilderness study area proposals which exclude areas with any commercial timber potential.

- As with provincial parks, many respondents favoured equitable access to wilderness for a wide cross-section of users.

- A number of respondents expressed concern over forest harvesting practices, rate of harvest, timber utilization standards, and environmental protection regulations associated with logging. While not directly related to park and wilderness area planning, these comments are included in the report for completeness.

Land Use Decision-Making

- One of the most common subjects discussed by respondents concerned the need for an overall land use strategy or policy in British Columbia. Decisions to set aside protected areas, it was argued, should be the result of comprehensive land use planning which considers all uses and impacts.

- Public participation was seen by most people as a key component of land use decision-making, particularly at the local level where the implications are most directly experienced.

- Much concern was expressed about the apparent influence that the large Lower Mainland population has on land use decisions in other areas of the province. Many people argued that a process was needed that would provide appropriate weight to the views of local, directly affected people and community interests.

- Some respondents felt that once decision-making is in progress for study areas, a moratorium should be placed on development to protect important values and features. Other people expressed the concern that any moratoria preempted the decision-making process, particularly where large-scale land use choices are necessary.

Economy, Employment and Lifestyle Impacts

- Because of the preliminary nature of the study area proposals, no economic or employment information or analyses were presented. Respondents indicated, however, that this is an area of major concern, particularly in rural communities.

- Strong concern was expressed about the loss of employment in the mining and forestry sectors. Arguments were made that people have worked in harmony with the forest for many years, some for generations. To alter this relationship by creating new protected areas would, many people pointed out, unjustifiably affect the lifestyle of many rural families. People cited not only loss of jobs and reduced standard of living, but loss of access to recreational opportunities in their "backyard."

- In the absence of specific information on the timber reserves potentially within a proposed study area, many people presumed that significant reductions to the Allowable Annual Cut could occur, particularly in Timber Supply Areas that currently experience a timber supply shortage. Reductions to allowable cut were often equated with lost forest sector jobs and reduced economic benefits.

- Many people in resource-based communities expressed the fear that existing, high-paying forest sector jobs would be traded or lost in favour of projected future tourism jobs at lower wages. This fear was based partly on the perception that the Lower Mainland population views the forest lands of the province as a hinterland or a playground, rather than as a source of wealth now and in the future.

- Only a few respondents argued the case for protecting areas in light of new economic criteria or opportunities to create employment in the tourism sector. These people believe that tourism and recreational opportunities would provide long-term economic returns, while logging mature forests provides only short-term gains.

Impact on Mineral Exploration and Development

- In the strong representation from the mineral sector, the special nature of subsurface resources, the need for long-term access for exploration and the difficulty of economic evaluation of hidden resources were cited. Equally strong opposition to mineral exploration in parks and wilderness areas confirmed the apparent incompatibility of industrial activities with wilderness experiences.

- The mining community opposed the creation of wilderness study areas and was concerned that public perception of wilderness values would lead to the exclusion of mineral exploration and development, regardless of whether an area is ever designated for protection.

- The policy of mineral exploration before designation was unpopular with both proponents and opponents of provincial parks. Proponents consider industrial pursuits to be incompatible, and fear that important values would be lost by preemptive decisions to explore. The mineral sector, on the other hand, believes that a 10-year exploration window is both technically and financially unworkable.

Aboriginal Concerns

- Arguments were made favouring moratoria on both developments and protected area designations until aboriginal land claims are resolved. Such suggestions, however, raised fears in some people over the implications of land claims on current ownership and rights to use by non-aboriginal people. There was also concern about the quality of stewardship should that responsibility be passed to Native Bands.

- A more moderate suggestion favoured the development of a separate strategy for participation of aboriginal people in Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. As well, several people expressed a desire to work with Native Bands to improve the management of park areas and resources, both on reserve lands and in areas of land claims. Working with the Bands, it was argued, would provide the government with the opportunity to integrate the stated goals for parks and wilderness areas with aboriginal cultural values and protection of areas of traditional use.

Regional Distinctions and Study Area Summaries

The province has been subdivided into six geographic regions for purposes of this summary — Northwestern, Northeastern, South Coast, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Kootenays, Southern Interior. Frequently recurring topics and comments specific to regional issues are summarized in the report for each region.

Many specific comments on study areas were concerned with particular values or features, or the potential loss of values to development. Provincial park or wilderness status was offered as the most dependable mechanism for protecting these values. Equally strong concern was expressed where protected area status could result in loss of employment in mining and forestry sectors, or where restrictions on traditional recreational pursuits might occur. Specific responses to the agency proposals for park and wilderness study areas are summarized in the report in tabular form by region.

Many references were made to contentious areas which are currently subject to some form of planning process, and do not appear on the list of study area proposals. It was argued that these areas should be added to the current list of candidate study areas. During the public review process, individuals and interest groups also offered their own proposals for consideration as future study areas. A complete list of these other areas is included for each region of the province. In total, 295 areas were suggested, some of which are currently under study.

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

British Columbia has had a long history of recurrent public debates over the value, identification and designation of large protected areas. While these debates have resulted in the creation of protected areas such as parks or wilderness areas, decisions have been made without the benefit of a guiding provincial context or plan.

In the absence of a provincial protected areas plan, BC Parks has traditionally assumed the lead role in planning protected areas, consulting other agencies as necessary. With the advent of forest wilderness legislation in 1987, however, the B.C. Forest Service acquired a new and significant role in planning for protected areas. The Forest Service is also responsible for resource planning in provincial forests — approximately 85% of the land area in the province.

Current land use pressures and this common interest in protected areas management have made increased co-ordination between these agencies more important than ever. *Parks and Wilderness for the 90s*, a joint program of BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service, represents just such a co-operative effort. Combining two planning processes — Parks Plan 90 and Wilderness for the '90s — the program is aimed at co-ordinating the planning and development of a system of parks and wilderness areas in British Columbia.

Parks Plan 90

The first provincial park was designated in 1911. Since then the system has evolved into 380 parks which are visited by more than 20 million people annually. Although provincial parks have existed in British Columbia for the past 80 years, there has never been a guiding *public* policy for the types of parks that should be established, how many, and in what locations. Parks Plan 90 is the name of a program to invite the public's review of future plans for the provincial park system.

In 1988, the first comprehensive statement of provincial park policy was publicly released by BC Parks in the form of a discussion paper entitled "Striking the Balance." As a result of the many responses received, the paper was revised and subsequently adopted by BC Parks as a strategy with which to formalize and direct park system planning.

In the spring of 1990, the Minister of Parks toured the province to talk to people in selected communities about provincial parks. The concern expressed most frequently at that time was the lack of a publicly reviewed plan for completing the parks system. As a result, the Minister initiated this planning process, Parks Plan 90.

The first products of Parks Plan 90 were three background papers which focused discussion on the goals and objectives for provincial parks: *Landscapes for BC Parks, Special Features for BC Parks,* and *Recreation Goals for BC Parks.*

In December 1990, BC Parks completed a draft working map which identified potential areas for future parks, to meet the goals identified in the background papers. This draft working map was widely circulated and a commitment was made to seek further public advice on the planning process, the goals of Parks Plan 90 and the study areas proposed on the working map.

The conservation and recreation goals of BC Parks are described in Appendix 2 of this report.

Wilderness for the '90s

Unlike BC Parks, the B.C. Forest Service is just beginning to develop its provincial forest wilderness program. Legislation passed in 1987 gave the Forest Service the added responsibility of planning and managing wilderness areas on provincial forest lands. The overall purpose of the Forest Service wilderness program is to ensure that wilderness values are considered in the integrated management of provincial forests.

Following public review of a discussion paper on provincial forest wilderness, the B.C. Forest Service prepared its wilderness policy, "Managing Wilderness in Provincial Forests." With the release of this policy in December 1989, the Minister of Forests announced the initiation of a wilderness plan. The public was asked for proposals for wilderness study areas at that time.

The B.C. Forest Service then examined all public and agency proposals for wilderness and developed a list of proposed wilderness study areas. These proposed study areas were published in January 1991 in a draft working map entitled "Wilderness for the '90s." This working map was prepared in co-ordination with the Parks Plan 90 map, and outlines the goals and objectives for the Forest Service wilderness program.

A complete description of the B.C. Forest Service wilderness program goals and objectives is contained in Appendix 3.

Objectives of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

In December 1990, BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service amalgamated their respective protected area planning programs into a combined planning initiative called Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. The overall goals of this joint effort are:

- to begin a long-term process of comprehensive and systematic planning for protected areas;
- to develop an inventory of potential areas of interest for park or wilderness which may be studied for those purposes in the future;
- to integrate the goals of a system of provincial parks with those of a system of provincial forest wilderness areas; and
- to seek public advice at the outset of the planning process and as the process evolves in the future.

Table 1 outlines key milestones in the development of the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s project.

TABLE 1. History of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

Date	Event
1985/86	Wilderness Advisory Committee lays the groundwork for legislation and policy changes, and for system planning initiatives for parks and wilderness areas in B.C.
1987	*Forest Act* is amended to include wilderness area legislation. Three areas are designated.
June 1988	B.C. Forest Service releases a discussion paper on wilderness policy for public review.
December 1989	Following public review, the B.C. Forest Service releases a final wilderness policy and initiates wilderness system planning.
January - May 1990	B.C. Forest Service staff undertakes initial examination of all public proposals for wilderness study areas.
Spring 1990	The Minister of Parks tours communities to talk to people about parks. A major issue is the lack of a publicly reviewed system plan for provincial parks.
March/April 1990	Minister of Parks embarks on a public process, following consultation with Cabinet colleagues.
June 1990	The Chief Forester distributes a list of proposed B.C. Forest Service wilderness study areas for inter-agency review.
June 1990	Parks Plan 90 is formally announced. Three background documents are released: *Landscapes for BC Parks, Special Features for BC Parks,* and *Parks Plan 90: Summary.*
July - August 1990	BC Parks compiles an evaluation of the current park system and identifies proposed study areas.
September - October 1990	BC Parks holds meetings with key provincial interest groups. Evaluation of proposed study areas is finalized. Discussion begins between BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service on combining planning processes.
November 1990	An action plan for public review of the parks system plan is approved by the Minister of Parks.

Date	Event
December 1990	Parks' system draft working map is released and public sessions announced for early 1991. Ministers of Forests and Parks announce the joint Parks and Wilderness for the 90s project. *Recreation Goals for BC Parks* background document is released. Responsibilities are assigned to staff for the project.
January 18, 1991	The B.C. Forest Service releases its draft working map, "Wilderness for the '90s." This map reflects interagency comments on the June 1990 draft.
January 21, 1991	Schedule for open houses and public meetings for February 1991 are released.
February 11-28, 1991	Public meetings and open houses are conducted across the province in 104 communities.
March-May 1991	BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service continue to meet individually with interested parties to explain the process and discuss issues.
April 15, 1991	Deadline for receipt of public responses.
May-June 1991	BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service evaluate public advice on Parks and Wilderness for the 90s and prepare a summary report for publication.
July-September 1991	Summary of public response to Parks and Wilderness for the 90s prepared and published.
September - November 1991	BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service work to develop an action plan to address parks and wilderness planning priorities in light of public responses and agency interests. Proposed future programs will be reviewed by government, before substantial new park and wilderness planning initiatives are undertaken.

THE PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

Parks and Wilderness for the 90s presents an array of proposed study areas which have resulted from years of agency evaluation and previous public comment. The results of this current public review are a significant addition to the existing body of public advice on parks and wilderness, including responses to the BC Parks Householder Survey and the B.C. Forest Service wilderness policy "Managing Wilderness in Provincial Forests."

During February 1991, BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service sponsored a series of open houses and public meetings across the province to solicit public advice on their planning process for provincial parks and provincial forest wilderness areas. Public meetings and open houses were held in 65 communities and open houses were held in an additional 39 locations.

Thirteen inter-agency teams were assigned to provide the resources necessary to conduct the public events. A complete list of public event locations is contained in Appendix 4.

At each public event, people were asked to comment on the system planning approach being taken by each of the agencies, and to review specific proposals for park and wilderness study areas. This was the first opportunity for people to participate in planning for protected areas in a systematic way, combining the efforts of both BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service.

In addition, at many of the event locations the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources made presentations or sponsored displays to tell people about the special requirements for exploration for subsurface resources.

At open house sessions, staff recorded public advice and a "comment sheet" was made available to every participant. (A copy of the comment sheet is contained in Appendix 4.) At public meetings, after hearing short prepared talks by agency staff, members of the public made oral presentations and provided briefs to a panel and the audience. Question and answer sessions were conducted as time permitted in each meeting. Staff took detailed notes and a backup audio tape of the proceedings was made at all sessions. People were asked to mail further responses by April 15, 1991. All of this public input was encoded into a computerized data base as a permanent record for future use.

More than 11,000 people attended the public events, over 1,300 made oral presentations, and approximately 3,500 letters, briefs and comment sheets were received, resulting in the most comprehensive public review ever conducted for parks or wilderness planning in British Columbia. People voiced opinions not only about the system goals and study area proposals, but also about a range of related issues, including land use planning, public consultation, public access to recreation opportunities, the management of consumptive and non-consumptive uses in protected areas, co-ordination of government programs, and economic and lifestyle implications for resource-based communities.

As part of this public review, BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service also met individually with a wide range of potentially affected interests. The agencies continue to offer this opportunity to any interested party as one means of maintaining the dialogue on protected area values and issues.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

During the public review process, BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service made a commitment to report back to the public what was heard across the province about provincial parks and forest wilderness areas. This report summarizes from the record those contributions most directly related to the parks or wilderness programs.

Because of the overwhelmingly large public commentary and the wide range of opinions presented, responses have been organized into theme areas and summarized in this report in five main parts:

- general responses related to the *objectives of the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s* process;
- responses related to *provincial parks system goals and park management*;
- responses related to *provincial forest wilderness goals and wilderness area management*;
- responses related to an array of *implications of park and wilderness development*, such as the need for comprehensive land use planning, and the economic and employment impacts of designating new protected areas;

- comments related to *regional distinctions and specific study area proposals*, including public suggestions for other study area candidates.

A set of appendices describe the key components of the draft working maps for parks and wilderness, and contain location maps for proposed study areas.

Readers should keep in mind that what is contained here is a summary only. It is a presentation of the range of opinions offered by public groups, individuals and organizations, and is intended to be a description of content, and not an analysis. Each part of the summary contains:

- a statement reflecting the essence of public comments;
- brief quotations to illustrate the diversity of opinions within each topic area; and
- opinions extracted directly from the record and summarized in point form as "Comment Summaries."

Every effort has been made in this summary to represent the variety of opinions expressed. As many individual ideas as possible have been included with an attempt to minimize duplication. Because many handwritten submissions have been quoted, it was not always possible to verify the spelling of authors' names.

FUTURE PROCESS

BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service will use the public commentary, along with a technical evaluation of park and wilderness study area proposals, to recommend a provincial program for studying, planning and designating parks and wilderness areas.

Upon approval by government, Parks and Wilderness for the 90s will become a systematic, long-term planning program for the establishment of a system of provincial parks and wilderness areas, and a key component of any land use strategy for British Columbia. Under such an approved program, agency staff will be able to direct efforts toward evaluating priority study areas in each region.

This public review of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s is considered by BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service to be one step in a long-term public planning process for parks and wilderness areas. As the emphasis shifts from a provincial overview to a regional view, or further to specific study areas, opportunities for public consultation will continue to be an integral part of the process.

For further information, contact any office of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service, or write to:

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GENERAL RESPONSES TO THE PARKS AND WILDERNESS FOR THE 90s PROJECT

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Many respondents offered general comments about the intent of the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s project, and about the implications of designating new parks or wilderness areas. Their responses illustrate the diverse opinion that exists in British Columbia, and reflect the range of topics summarized in this report.

Need for Additional Protected Areas

British Columbians expressed both pride and support for provincial parks and wilderness areas, and most people acknowledged the need for some expansion. However, the degree of expansion and the process to guide it are subject to great variations of opinion.

Most people who favour expansion of the park and wilderness area systems cite the need for increasing conservation measures to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the province. Frequent references were made to the need to maintain biological diversity in a set of representative landscapes and ecosystems that are protected from disruption by man. Such areas must be large enough to maintain the integrity of the values being protected and to limit deterioration or fragmentation as a result of resource extraction. Arguments were presented that natural and cultural features warrant protection on their own merits, and that measures of value cannot always be quantified in economic terms.

Strong arguments were also made, however, for keeping protected areas to a minimum to maintain the economic interests of the province and maximize management flexibility.

In many instances, comments were generic and did not differentiate between a *provincial wilderness park* and a *wilderness area* under the *Forest Act*.

"On seeing the presentation, I am encouraged that Parks and Wilderness and all the other government departments are trying to provide proper management to balance commercial with environmental and conservation needs." (P. Edwards, Fernie)

"The measure of the success of this process will be whether or not it leads to the protection of special areas like Chilko Lake, Tatshenshini, and South Chilcotin Mountains." (John Mikes, Wilderness Tourism Council of B.C., Vancouver).

"I am concerned that the process has become political. Instead of areas being chosen through a technical evaluation of criteria, I believe many areas are the result of a political decision to appease pressure groups." (Wayne Green, Port McNeill)

"Much of the area [of B.C.], particularly above treeline, is utterly useless for any pursuit other than recreation or, in rare cases, mining. The fact is that no matter what the designation or colour of the land on a map, it is and will always remain pristine wilderness visited by virtually no human beings throughout the year, with the very rare exception of a mineral exploration crew searching for minerals." (Ross J. Beaty, President, Equinox Resources Ltd., Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- As much land as possible should be set aside to protect unique areas and areas of special ecological, geological and cultural significance.
- We have an obligation to future generations to leave a good portion of the land undeveloped, so that they may in turn experience wilderness.
- Parks and wilderness areas should be considered as core conservation areas within a network of lands, which are managed to sustain structural and functional biodiversity as well as to provide a steady flow of natural resources for economic development.
- Ministries should spend more time educating the public and regulating logging and mining, thus leaving suitable areas for future recreation without the need for set-asides.
- No more large areas should be set aside, as these have too many values for too many users.

Intent of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

Most people supported the co-ordinated efforts of the agencies, yet some were confused or concerned over the purpose of this particular project. Some respondents said they distrusted the motives of government agencies, and aired concern that decisions may have already been made on the future land use designations within "proposed" study areas. Others questioned the source of study area proposals and the material presented.

Several people said they were not sure how detailed their responses should be. While many felt they could make general comments about project goals, they said it was difficult to comment on proposed study areas without more area-specific information.

A notable number of people were concerned over the absence of boundary information. Some said they had difficulty responding to study area proposals without having a clearer sense of whether the areas actually encompassed the most important values. Furthermore, they felt that the information provided did not indicate exactly how future studies would address this issue. The absence of specific information exacerbated suspicions that decisions could be made without adequate regard for economic impacts, either locally or provincially.

> *"The major value of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s system planning has been the opportunity for the parks and wilderness allocations to be thoroughly examined in a public forum. Hopefully this open approach will lead to improved communication, extensive debate and increased trust among land and water use sectors of this province."* (Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., Vancouver)

> *"A serious problem with the present process is that in the eyes of many it is a one shot process, so some people will react by trying to get everything set aside while the opportunity exists."* (Einar Blix, Smithers)

> *"This seems like it's all been decided....I find it hard to believe the ministries are really very open to changes of any significance [in the areas already proposed]."* (Billy Metcalf, Grand Forks)

> *"We do not support the methodology or process currently being pursued by the Ministry of Parks and the Ministry of Forests. We also consider the timing for this process to be inappropriate."* (Invermere Forest Association)

Comment summaries

- The presentation of information seems to mislead people, by having them believe that there are currently only a few park and wilderness opportunities in British Columbia.
- Parks and Wilderness for the 90s is intentionally dishonest in presenting a systems plan far beyond what people in British Columbia want.
- Setting aside large remote areas appears to be a tool to stop forestry and mining interests. These remote locations will not service the needs of recreationists.
- Too much attention is being paid to a vocal minority of special interests, rather than to the needs of communities and local residents.
- Place less importance on public opinion and allow the experts in the field to make decisions based on the facts.
- The maps and information do not provide enough detail for people to comment intelligently about any particular area.
- The park study area proposals seem to be presented as a foregone conclusion, but without any of the ancillary information on boundaries, sizes or economic implications.
- The time between receipt of public comments and delivery of recommendations to Cabinet appears to be particularly rushed.
- The list of study areas should be open-ended, as more areas may need to be considered in the future.
- Parks and Wilderness for the 90s does not adequately address the role of BC Parks and other agencies in conservation and education. The emphasis tends to be on man's recreational interests, with education left to other agencies with no mandate.

The "Systematic" Approach

Those people concerned about the implications of park and wilderness expansion concede that there is a need for a "systems approach" to protected areas. They believe, however, that set-asides should be confined to those areas with unique or special features only. Some argue strongly that deletions from the available resource base should only be made as a result of comprehensive land use planning involving all affected interests. Zoning land for set-asides cannot in itself, said some respondents, resolve competing demands. Mechanisms for integrating uses must also be applied.

A range of possible targets for protected areas was suggested, from the current 6.6% to as much as 40% of the land base. Many people supported the 12% figure published by the Brundtland Commission as being realistic. The argument was also made that a target figure was inappropriate because of the arbitrary restriction it places on the number and quality of values to be conserved in protected areas.

> *"The goal of 12% wilderness areas proposed by the Brundtland Commission needs to be made a reality in B.C."* (Mark Adams, New Denver)

> *"While COFI supports in principle the completion of the Provincial Park and Forest Wilderness System, we are concerned that there be no significant duplication in the types of areas being preserved...; and an assessment of the economic contribution of the proposed park and wilderness designations should be established on a local, regional and provincial scale prior to any recommendations to Cabinet."* (Council of Forest Industries, Vancouver).

Comment summaries

- Study areas should reflect a cross-section of wildlife habitat, biogeoclimatic zones and wilderness types. An overall "roadless area review" would ensure that all potential areas are evaluated before irreversible decisions are made.

- Parks and wilderness areas should be provided for the protection of wildlife and old-growth forests, as well as for the needs of people.

- The Parks and Wilderness 90s project makes no mention of a goal for the amount of area to be preserved in parks and wilderness.

Effects of Park and Wilderness Designation

A wide array of potential impacts of designating new parks and wilderness areas was cited. The major themes included the need for a land use strategy, restrictions on traditional, industrial and recreational uses, economic and lifestyle implications for resource-dependent communities, protection of biodiversity, creation of tourism and recreation opportunities, and maintenance of options for the future.

Many respondents said that they felt urban dwellers, particularly in the Lower Mainland, are out of touch with the driving forces of British Columbia's resource-based economy, and are unaware of the current park and wilderness opportunities already available in designated and *de facto* areas. Residents in resource-based and rural communities felt that land use decisions should be based on local needs rather than on political pressures applied by urban-based environmental interests who bear no direct burden from those decisions.

> *"The process is too centralized and does not give the people who live and work in the planned areas either the power or the responsibility to manage the land use upon which their communities are based."* (Trevor Chandler, Lillooet)

> *"We are not just setting aside areas of B.C., rather we are reallocating our resources.... [This reallocation] is both unfair and unethical. [Decisions must] first consider the effects to current users of the resource.... [F]ormer users should be fully compensated."* (David Majcher, 100 Mile House)

> *"I think that the process is worthwhile so that all members of the public can voice their opinions. I hope that individual opinions will be listened to, not just pressure groups or large business."* (Heather Brewis, Golden)

Comment summaries

- The current project does not adequately inform people about the impacts of new parks and wilderness areas on current land uses, economic activities and lifestyles.

- Since it is the developed areas that experience heavy recreational use, these are where the management emphasis should be, and not on preserving more remote areas that are lightly used by only a small sector of people.

- Given the increasing pressure on the forest resource from many interests, the amount of existing working forest should be maintained. Any loss of working forest must be compensated with the substitution of other land areas or through more intensive silviculture practices on the remaining forests.

- The goals of the project are too ambitious and if followed through will have severe impacts on economic interests and other traditional uses of these areas.

- Compensation policy and procedures should protect licensed users and directly affected interests from land alienations or restrictions.

Cost Implications

Many respondents said they did not believe that public funds could support an expanded park and wilderness areas system, given the high demand for the provision of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities and the historic level of funding available for this sector. A few people suggested they would support the expenditure of public funds.

> *"...The question of cost must be taken into consideration. In this context, costs are not limited to the establishment, development and maintenance of protected areas, but also include the incidental costs resulting from exclusion and alienation. Government must be made to realize that a sensible balance between theoretical optimum and practical reality should be its first priority."* (Gerard van Halderen, President, Cariboo Mining Association)

> *"I am in favour of my tax dollars being spent to subsidize parks and wilderness areas."* (Ed Matthews, Grand Forks)

Comment summaries

- It is important to conserve truly unique areas, but park and wilderness creation must be kept to a minimum. The economy does not need increased expenditures for maintaining public lands and employees.

- Government should not be launching a program that creates administrative and management costs in areas that will remain as wilderness in the foreseeable future.

- First, evaluate the costs of preserving areas, and then advise the public as to how these monies will be acquired.

- The chronic lack of funding for BC Parks suggests that proper studies may not be carried out. This seems to contradict the slogan "world class." Quality must not be compromised for quantity.

- No "reimbursement" should go to logging companies for loss of "potential" profits. To date, there has never been any reimbursement to the people of this province for the loss and destruction of "invaluable" land.

- Other users (e.g., forestry) should be fairly compensated for losses. This compensation should be land, not money, as cash does not employ people — a land base does.

- Taxes should not be increased to cover increased costs of administration, development and maintenance of more parks.

- The costs of designating new park and wilderness areas will be borne by the displaced employees, their families and communities, and by the taxpayer who will eventually compensate licensed users. The provincial economy will lose, not gain. The benefits will go to a handful who represent few net contributors to British Columbia's economy.

THE PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service requested specific public comment on the adequacy of this process for seeking public review of the parks and wilderness system proposals. A range of comments was received about the open house and public meeting format, about the adequacy of information provided to the public, and about the opportunities available for public response to the project.

Conducting the Public Events

Responses concerning the open houses and public meetings indicate overall support for the process and an appreciation of the opportunities for discussion and input.

Suggestions were made for extending events over several days in larger communities, and for extending discussion periods during the public meetings. More time would also have given public participants a greater depth of understanding of both the material and the process.

> *"I commend you on your approach employing public displays and meeting. Only by involving all the potential users...can rational compromises be developed."* (John Whittaker, Kaslo)

Comment summaries

- The public meeting process is a good first step toward the establishment of priorities within the parks and wilderness system, and toward the identification of potential land use conflicts.
- The process has improved the knowledge of local people about proposed protected areas which could potentially affect them.
- The meeting format in a number of communities is a good approach, but more time could have been devoted to question period.
- Conduct meetings over several days in the larger centres.
- The process is too rapid. People do not have enough time to understand the material and contribute effectively.
- It is unrealistic to table so many areas for public scrutiny in such a short period of time. As a result, agencies have failed to educate the public adequately about proposals and their implications.
- The Cariboo Local Advisory Council is a multidisciplinary group sanctioned by government to make land use recommendations. This group is the most well-balanced and best-informed body to incorporate park and wilderness proposals, yet it was apparently not consulted.

Information Provided to the Public

Information was provided in displays at open houses, during presentations at meetings, and in published maps and written materials.

Response to the information materials was often linked with concerns about the intent of the process. Where concerns were expressed about the need for comprehensive decision-making, the information base was considered insufficient in its analyses of potential impacts on current users.

Several suggestions were made for improving the maps, including making study area locations more specific and illustrating the full range of protected areas and proposals, not just study areas for future parks or wilderness.

Some respondents felt that the response form given to participants at all public events tended to focus responses on the need for parks and wilderness areas, rather than allowing for open-ended comments of all types.

> *"The Parks and Forest Service maps should be combined and analyzed in relation to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and eco-regions. The public needs this type of analysis presented in order to fully understand what is being asked of them."* (Paul George, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Vancouver).

Comment summaries

- Maps should show the total area of existing regional, provincial and federal park areas, and those areas currently being studied for possible protected area status.
- Proposed park and wilderness study areas should be shown on the same map.
- Credibility must be maintained in this process. One key is to provide the public with the reasons some areas are on the maps while other obvious candidates are not. Placing all areas already under study, like the Tsitika and Tahsis-Kwois, and areas designated for deferral by the Old-Growth Strategy on the same map would have provided a more honest picture.
- No sizes are mentioned, so it is difficult to say whether the appropriate values are being accommodated.

- The costs of planning, facility development, maintenance and administration need to be part of the public information package.
- Display material could have focused more on the region it was being shown in.
- The comment sheet was designed to solicit feedback on additional protected areas, rather than to ask about the need for such areas.
- The questions in the comment sheet are worded in such a way as to generate the responses the agencies desire.

Future Public Processes

Because of the implications of expanding parks and wilderness areas, many people felt the public consultation begun by Parks and Wilderness for the 90s should continue, and supported increased future efforts for obtaining local input. Suggestions were made for conducting another set of meetings for public review of an action plan or revised list of proposed study areas before a planning program is finalized by government.

Many suggestions were made for future decision-making processes conducted for specific study areas. It was argued that planning processes leading to designation of protected areas require greater local participation by potentially affected interests. Fear was expressed that decisions with significant local implications would be made without sufficient local involvement.

"So long as this is the first step in a long process, I applaud and support it." (Jayson Faulkner, Whistler)

"There should be more provision for public involvement in future stages of the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process, particularly during the actual decision-making stage. Local committees should be formed to deal with the specifics of protected area designation and management." (Tony Embleton, Chairman, Conservation Committee, Victoria Natural History Society)

"I found that I had lots of access to your representatives at the open house to discuss my concerns....I presume that planning for our parks system in B.C. and evaluation are ongoing processes and that our views will be solicited in the future." (Janet Naylor, Pemberton)

Comment summaries

- The progressive nature of the public process undertaken by Parks and the Forest Service should be applauded. The intent of these public meetings should be followed through on, and the information from this process acted on in a comprehensive and accountable manner.
- Parks and Wilderness for the 90s should proceed regardless of other planning processes which may be under way.
- Further input should be sought on a final list of proposed study areas so that the public has an understanding of why some areas have been rejected.
- The action plan should be reviewed before it goes to Cabinet for approval.
- Actively involve residents living in the vicinity of each proposed study area. Include representation from environmentalists, loggers and aboriginal people on planning committees for study areas.
- Hold another set of meetings to present research information on impacts of proposals.
- Make information available through public libraries.
- Use smaller workshop formats, with more time for detailed discussion.
- Improve future advertising to keep people informed.

Staff Participation

The public review process involved a large number of staff from both BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service. The efforts of staff were acknowledged at almost every public event.

> *"I appreciate the work you're doing and your effort to make that work available to the public."* (Doreen Zaiss, Gray Creek)

> *"I very much appreciate the efforts toward public input. The display I attended in Kaslo was informative and many officers helpful and caring."* (Kate O'Keefe, Johnson's Landing)

Comment summaries

- The opportunity to speak directly with ministry staff is appreciated.
- Staff in both ministries should be commended for the amount of time and effort they have invested in this project.
- BC Parks and B.C. Forest Service staff showed their willingness and interest to inform people and record concerns.
- Staff should be allowed to move forward on proposals, free from political pressure.

INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATION

BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service are the agencies responsible for the main components of a system of protected areas in the province. They are not, however, the only agencies with mandates or management responsibilities in the resource sector.

Many respondents commented on the conspicuous absence of the Ministries of Environment, Tourism and, to a lesser degree, Crown Lands and Native Affairs. There was a strong call for co-ordinated action among these agencies, for reduction in competition and overlapping jurisdictions, and for streamlining of administration.

While the current policy on mineral exploration in parks and wilderness areas received a great deal of criticism, there was broad support for the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources becoming part of the public review for parks and wilderness planning.

> *"We are pleased to see the Ministries of Forests and Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources at the table. The Ministry of Environment should also be represented to ensure that wildlife and wildlife habitat are considered adequately."* (Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, Vancouver)

> *"There is presently far too much competition between various ministries, each trying to get control of what little is left of our pristine wilderness. Let's take a look at what is best for the land base and not at which agency is going to have the most power."* (no name given)

"These proposals should be reviewed with the Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the Forest Resources Commission, and the Old-Growth Committee. All of these groups...should be working together instead of our tax dollars being used to fund these different projects." (Linda Morton, Ucluelet)

Comment summaries

- The Forest Resources Commission was presented with the same views as those being presented here. How many travelling road shows have to be paid for before government gets the message? Stop the erosion of the forest land base and the threat to a sustainable forest industry.

- It is important that this program be co-ordinated with other provincial initiatives, such as the Old-Growth Strategy and Ecological Reserves, to minimize land withdrawals.

- Other agencies have significant concerns and responsibilities for the conservation and recreation needs of the province and should also be included in this process (e.g., Tourism, Crown Lands, Environment, Native Affairs).

- There appears to be duplication of effort between BC Parks, the B.C. Forest Service and Parks Canada. One authority could better plan for protected spaces.

- All resource management ministries should co-ordinate with the Ministry of Crown Lands in immediately implementing computerized geographic information systems to enhance land use decision-making.

- A common, single nomenclature is needed for protected areas so that the public can more easily understand what is being proposed.

BC PARKS ROLE AND GOALS FOR PROVINCIAL PARKS

MANDATE AND POLICY DIRECTION

Most respondents confirmed support for the role and mandate of BC Parks. However, there were variations across the province and significant differences of opinion emerged over the need for major expansion.

Provincially based conservation interests were particularly in favour of expansion. The support for park creation that came from non-urban settings focused largely on the need for protecting specific landscapes or recreation areas, but not at the expense of traditional uses. Arguments were also made for designating parks to protect specific values such as wildlife, water quality, viewscapes and special local recreation sites.

Concern about the creation of more large parks across the province was voiced by individuals and organizations in resource-based communities, by industries and industry associations, and by professional associations in the resources sector. Many of these respondents called for greater consideration of economic and employment implications as a primary criterion in deciding additions to the park system. Others believe that British Columbia contains sufficient park area, both designated and *de facto*, and that there is no proven need to create more parks.

Those favouring large parks tended to justify this need on the basis of ecological protection (e.g., biodiversity, wildlife habitat, drainage basins). Those generally opposed to new large parks felt that current use pressures do not warrant the creation of more wilderness parks.

The nature of responses also showed a divergence of opinion between residents of large urban centres and the Lower Mainland, and those of the interior of the province and rural locales. The urban-based view appears to be one of pessimism about current resource management practices. Many urban dwellers feel that large park areas must be preserved both to ensure environmental protection and hedge against future environmental uncertainties, and to provide recreational opportunities. Implicit in this attitude is the apparent acceptance that economic or lifestyle impacts are warranted, given the need for conservation.

In small communities and rural settings, there is a belief that the urban population has lost touch with the realities of a resource-based economy. Many non-urban respondents felt that their understanding of the state of the environment and of management practices is better qualified because they live and work in the area.

References were also made to the political nature of the creation of some park areas in the past, and it was hoped that Parks and Wilderness for the 90s was not politically motivated.

BC Parks' Mandate and Priorities

The mandate of BC Parks is to protect and manage outstanding examples of British Columbia's natural and cultural environment for public benefit and use.

BC Parks was complimented frequently for exercising its mandate in a more visible and systematic manner than has been previously done. Some respondents urged a consolidation of wildland recreation management under the Parks ministry, or greater planning and management control by the ministry over activities that affect park use. Clear support was expressed for recent government initiatives to legislate park boundaries to ensure park status in the long term.

Other respondents felt that ministry priorities should remain development and management of existing parks rather than the designation of new areas. If parks are for people, it was argued, then the ministry should be placing more emphasis on the recreation management part of its mandate.

> *"I am pleased to see the extent that wilderness protection is considered an integral part of the BC Parks mandate."* (Ian Smith, Chetwynd)

> *"B.C.'s Parks branch lost credibility by allowing industrial activities in parks such as Strathcona. Mining and logging and the needed roadmaking are incompatible with conserving large areas of natural landscape."* (D. Angus, Duncan)

Comment summaries

- Current management of parks, wilderness and recreation areas is fragmented and should be consolidated under the Ministry of Parks, given that agency's successful history in park management.
- Areas identified as prime wilderness area candidates should be removed from the provincial forest base and administered by BC Parks.
- Because of its expertise and experience, BC Parks should be given the responsibility for improving recreational access to lands outside parks and recreation areas.
- BC Parks' mandate should include planning for multiple recreation-oriented uses, including hunting, trapping, snowmobiling and heli-skiing.
- The primary purpose of parks should be for protecting ecosystems and endangered species.
- Park boundaries need to be protected by legislation which does not permit arbitrary boundary adjustments.
- Rather than assessing new areas, BC Parks should be seeking public advice on how to develop and manage the existing park system.
- More intensive management should take place in existing parks before new ones are created.
- British Columbia should develop a Wild Rivers Act to protect wild and scenic rivers.

Demand for New Parks

Linked with concerns over the priorities of the agency were questions about the apparent demand for new large wilderness parks. It was argued that trade-offs must be made in almost every case, and that decisions to designate parks should not merely be in response to demands from a single sector or interest. Some respondents suggested, however, that the demand for new large parks has not been proven.

> *"I am concerned that some parks are being proposed not because of the potential for a park for everyone to enjoy, but because of the anti-logging sentiment that is out there."* (Alan Thorne, Sechelt)

Comment summaries

- It is essential that BC Parks examine closely its motives for park creation. Protection of representative natural landscapes and special features should be balanced with good accessibility and the maintenance of a manageable resource base. The agency should keep clear objectives in mind and resist the temptation to designate in response to pressure from interest groups.

- Before new parks are made in British Columbia, the world class parks, wilderness, recreation areas and conservation system that are already in place should be celebrated, so that the public clearly understands the extent of the existing system and the opportunities it creates.

- Given the current use levels in existing wilderness parks, there does not appear to be any need for a greater number of large Class A parks.

- There is little evidence to support the claim that tourist use of outdoor recreation facilities is a justification for wilderness parks.

Parks System Planning Process

Because this is the first time that a provincial parks system plan has been publicly reviewed in British Columbia, there was much confusion concerning the planning process.

Although a "systems planning" approach to park identification was endorsed by many, respondents indicated that the planning process used by BC Parks was not well understood. There were numerous questions about the adequacy of background work already conducted and much uncertainty expressed about what constituted "future study" or future process.

> *"I feel there is an acute need for some middle-ground record of the decision process. At one extreme there is the minutiae of the study documents, while at the other there is the brevity and compression of "Draft Working Map." Where is the explanation of how the exhaustive lists of features, landscapes and goals were condensed into the Draft map? Surely, exposing the decision-making process to public scrutiny is just as (or more) important than public inspection of inventories of geographic features."* (Dr. Shane Koscielniak, Vancouver)

"I commend BC Parks for developing a coherent process for planning future development of Provincial Parks, to replace the ad hoc system too often used in the past. My only criticism of the process...is that the time frame for implementing the plan is far too short.... The short-term action plan should identify the areas on which valid studies can realistically be completed by the end of the decade.... The longer term action plan can be little more than a statement of broad objectives." (John M. Newell, P.Eng., Victoria)

Comment summaries

- Congratulations are due for involving the public in producing a complete and final province-wide park system.
- It is not clear what the study process will accomplish and when. There is a need to proceed with park designations in the short term.
- Insufficient background work has been done for current parks to determine carrying capacity, current use levels, demands for park facilities, and economic implications. Current parks have not been developed to their potential.
- Before parks are designated, all legitimate interest groups and individuals should be given notice and invited to participate in the decision-making process.
- The park planning process is confusing and has failed in the past to account for the needs of local people.

Concern for Implications for Traditional Uses

Strongest opposition to an expanded parks system came from people concerned about new restrictions being placed on traditional and future industrial and recreation opportunities.

It was argued that if this park planning process resulted in new park designations, livelihoods and lifestyles of current users would be unjustly affected. At the very least, respondents favoured more comprehensive decision-making that considered present uses and future potentials. Some respondents felt that, in some areas of the province, the land base could not absorb any more "single use" designations. In such cases, integrated management was seen as the only realistic option.

"I agree with BC Parks' mandate and goals, but I am concerned that at the planning and evaluation stage other users will be overlooked or ignored." (D. Guilbride, Garibaldi Highlands)

"I have difficulty allowing my tax dollars to be spent on something that impacts so heavily on the resource industries...while having such a low use by the public in many cases." (Sean Butler, Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- Designation of wilderness infringes on the rights and privileges of traditional users of these areas.
- Creation of large wilderness parks removes land from other use opportunities and requires new funding for operations.
- An integrated management approach where only highly prized areas are reviewed for special treatment would better accommodate the other use pressures, from recreation to selective logging, ranching and trapping.
- BC Parks promotional brochures depict the province as a puzzle with all the pieces in place except for parks. This is misleading, since parks and wilderness are only parts of a complex land use mosaic.
- The promotional video implores people to save British Columbia and depicts majestic scenery which is already *de facto* wilderness because of its inaccessibility and absence of other values. The surrounding working forest should also be shown and references made to implications on jobs and local economies when trade-offs are made in favour of park designations.
- There is not enough land left in the Kootenays to sustain the current activities necessary for the economic base. The land base cannot accommodate demands for single use parks without having serious impacts on existing users.

PARK SYSTEM GOALS

BC Parks identified six park system goals and included these on the draft working map. There are two conservation goals:

- to protect examples of 59 identified landscapes, and
- to protect the most outstanding natural and cultural features.

The four recreation goals are:

- to provide parks services which enhance major tourism travel routes;
- to provide parks at outdoor recreation holiday destinations;
- to provide parks with backcountry adventures; and
- to ensure park opportunities near where people live.

Of the conservation goals, protection of representative landscapes was mentioned most often as a priority. Of the recreation goals, provision of local recreation opportunities was the major concern. On a province-wide basis, comments on BC Parks' system goals were almost equally divided between conservation and recreation concerns.

Additional goals were suggested, related to linear parks, marine areas and increased provincial government leadership in local park management issues.

Conservation Goals

In general, respondents strongly supported the concept of representative parks in each of the 59 identified landscapes. Protection of biological diversity and wildlife were given as the main conservation goals.

Size of park areas was also raised. Some people felt that parks should be large enough to protect the integrity of the landscape being represented, and that boundaries could be rationalized in terms of conservation of ecosystems and minimum viable populations. Wildlife, it was felt, should be factored into boundary decisions to accommodate movement among habitats.

> *"Large study areas for parks should include entire drainage areas, from alpine to wooded slopes to valley bottoms."* (Roye Lovgren, Telkwa)

> *"I support the concept behind Parks Plan 90. I am pleased with the inventory method of special features and hope they will be set aside in either Parks or Ecoreserves."* (Anni Coulter, Cranbrook)

"Representation of the natural land features of B.C. is necessary, as is the protection of special features. We must balance carefully the objectives with concern for special interest areas. Each person may have his or her own favourite spot, but we cannot protect them all." (Tom Turner, Fraser Lake)

Comment summaries

- Representing all the 59 landscapes in the park system should be supported. The "Goal Statement" in *Landscapes for BC Parks* could be more specific if an objective of 10% of each landscape were to be protected in Class A parks.

- The total area withdrawn for park or wilderness should be reduced wherever possible, by meeting the objectives of two or more conservation goals on the same area.

- Parks designated in each landscape should be sufficiently large to preserve the natural ecosystem and native wildlife populations.

- Preserve at least one intact ecosystem in each of British Columbia's unique biogeoclimatic zones.

- BC Parks should officially recognize the integrity of watersheds as defined biological units, and make every effort to preserve watersheds that do not yet bear the scars of resource development.

- Rather than focus on landscapes and features, a more important question for the park system would be, "What do we need to protect and maintain our biological systems?"

- Instead of creating new large parks, consider achieving conservation goals by adding to existing parks.

- Special feature goals should also include the capacity for preserving historical landscapes.

Recreation Goals

Recreation goals were referred to much less often than conservation goals, with the exception of the local recreation goal.

Many respondents expressed the desire for a greater number of small park areas dedicated to local recreational opportunities. BC Parks, it was felt, should consider establishing a greater concentration of small park areas in the Lower Mainland and near urban areas throughout the province, and should assume a leadership role in co-ordinating parks and open space programs at the local level.

Accessibility, some respondents noted, should be defined in terms of services that recognize the needs of all types of park users, including those with impaired mobility or special needs.

> *"As outlined in the documentation and confirmed during the briefing session, the recreation goals and requirements of the Lower Mainland are viewed by BC Parks as falling under the mandate of regional and local governments.... Such a position is regressive. It does not take into account the significant changes in this region both in terms of land use and projected increases in population."* (Greater Vancouver Regional District)

> *"[We recommend] that BC Parks' two goals of Tourism Travel Routes and Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destinations are inappropriate and that [these] be transferred from [BC Parks] mandate to B.C. Tourism."* (Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- A greater number of small, highly developed parks are needed close to population centres, and consideration should be given to making these accessible by public transportation.
- Outdoor recreation areas directly accessible by roads and motorized boats are needed so that aged and infirm people can experience the wilderness.
- Conservation goals could potentially conflict with recreation goals where demands overlap.

- BC Parks has passed critical conservation interests in lowland areas over to inadequately funded regional and municipal governments. This matter must not be dismissed under the guise of "day-use." BC Parks should undertake greater leadership for the co-ordinated planning of the conservation and management of these areas.

- BC Parks should provide assistance to municipalities and regional districts to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in local park settings.

Setting Priorities among Goals

In the Lower Mainland and on southern Vancouver Island, respondents generally felt that fulfilling the conservation goals was a main priority, but they also indicated a strong desire for seeing improved access to a greater number of near-urban recreational opportunities. In other parts of the province, respondents strongly favoured the pursuit of recreation goals over the conservation goals.

Where more than one goal could be met in a single area, it was argued by some people that this would avoid duplication and reduce stress on the remaining land base.

> *"More emphasis should be placed on the conservation of our province's precious biotic and physical resources as a main goal of parks. Recreation should be a secondary consideration in most cases. An expansion of the ecological reserves program would do a lot to this end."* (Todd Redding, Sidney)

> *"I think recreation goals should be given top priority because additional and upgraded recreation sites will benefit the most people."* (Pat Boucher, Stewart)

Comment summaries

- Parks' highest priority should be conservation of ecosystems and minimum viable populations. Boundaries should mirror ecological realities.

- In meeting conservation goals, greater emphasis should be placed on the ecological reserves program.

- It is notable that BC Parks does not address the need for designated parks in the very limited low elevation landscapes where people live and wildlife winter. It is comparatively easy to address wilderness when there is much of it in British Columbia, but much more difficult to address the low elevation areas such as the wetland of Boundary Bay or the endangered ecosystem of the South Okanagan.

- Designations should try to accommodate two or more objectives in some protected areas.

Suggested New Goals

In addition to the conservation and recreation goals called for, arguments were made for the establishment of agency objectives to create river corridor parks, trail corridor parks, and parks that recognize the ecology of British Columbia's saltwater marine environments.

It was also suggested that BC Parks should assume greater leadership in the conservation and management of small areas of local significance, rather than leaving this up to local governments.

> *"There is a very large category of this province's natural history that has received virtually no attention from a preservation perspective. This is the marine environment or the life beneath the surface of the sea. Dwelling in the rich waters of our coastline is an array of fascinating creatures, whose collective colour and diversity is the equal of virtually any other locale on this planet."* (Pacific Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, Vancouver)

> *"[T]he protection of wildlife and scenic resources should be the number one priority of both provincial and federal parkland."* (Barbara Budd, Vancouver)

> *"...I was disappointed to learn that [Parks and Wilderness for the 90s] is virtually oblivious to British Columbia's greatest resource — our rivers. Other than a fleeting reference to the 'Rivers and Trails Program'...there is almost no recognition of river corridors."* (R. Glen Nicholson, Prince George)

Comment summaries

- While a number of marine parks currently exist in the province, these are primarily for moorage and are selected for terrestrial criteria rather than underwater criteria. Discrete underwater parks should be designated to protect representative marine environments in perpetuity. Such preserves would meet the goals set by BC Parks and would enhance the overall scope of protected areas.

- No recognition is given to the recreational potential of such rivers as the Blackwater, Chilcotin, Stuart or Stikine. The province should create a system of river corridor parks that recognizes this natural heritage of wild and scenic rivers.

- Corridor parks are needed to help the management of long distance trail systems. Historic railway grades should have a higher priority as part of this system (e.g., "rails to trails" in the Southern Interior).

- Protected corridors should be considered between parks to avoid the creation of "protected islands."

- An area should be set aside in the Okanagan Basin to recognize the mid-level grasslands, stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, and some unique small lakes among the rolling hills. This land form is currently not represented, despite the Ministry of Parks' assessment that the Okanagan Basin has "satisfactory" representation.

MANAGEMENT WITHIN PROVINCIAL PARKS

Many people questioned the compatibility of commercial and industrial developments within parks, including timber harvesting, mineral exploration, trapping, guiding, heli-hiking, heli-skiing and private tourism developments. In many cases, such activity was thought to be contrary to the intent of park designation, to the extent that it should be excluded. This was particularly true for forestry- and mineral-related activity. Proposals were also made for relaxing current restrictions to allow development on a reduced scale. (Mineral exploration and development are discussed on page 76.)

Timber Harvesting

Although timber harvesting has historically been excluded from park areas, several respondents argued that provision should be made within parks for harvesting over-mature timber and timber that is diseased, infested with insects or blown down. Such a policy would reduce the threat of fire and pests spreading to adjacent areas, and would provide society with benefits from timber use.

Some people suggested that timber harvests should be more directly integrated with recreational objectives, perhaps through selective harvesting. However, strong opposition to harvesting in parks remains, with many respondents stating that it is incompatible with the intent of park designation.

> *"I feel the parks in question should be dual purpose zones where logging and recreation could co-exist using special guidelines."* (N.J. Tomlinson, Golden)

> *"All extractive industry must be kept out of these areas to allow them to retain their ecological integrity."* (Todd Redding, Sidney)

> *"Areas of accessible merchantable timber or previously logged and reforested areas that do not directly add to the wilderness or park experience should be removed from the study areas."* (Angela Spaxman, Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- In existing parks, over-mature trees should be removed with as little environmental impact as possible. This would stop the spread of disease and insect infestation.
- Selective logging should be considered in existing parks, so that these timber resources do not go to waste.
- Revenues from the use of timber resources within parks could fund the necessary recreational infrastructure.
- All timber harvesting should be prohibited in provincial parks.

Commercial Recreation Activities

A number of respondents were specifically concerned with continued commercial guiding operations within parks (big game hunting, fishing, skiing, and hiking). While some people opposed these recreationally oriented ventures, others felt that such economic opportunities should not be overlooked.

> *"I hope that if and when backcountry recreation leases are considered, citizens of Canada and B.C. will have first opportunities and that the public will have to abide by the same rules as commercial operations."* (E. Graflunder, Vavenby)

> *"Backcountry and alpine access should be limited to guiding only for non-nationals (as is done with hunting) and [BC Parks] should work closely with the private sector to fully develop the potential for wilderness adventure tourism."* (Ian Fraser, Kaslo)

> *"I am concerned about the low priority given to wilderness....There seems to be a push towards opening wilderness parks to commercialism. I object to this. One of the main goals of the parks system should be to preserve wilderness in a pristine state."* (John Milne, Merville)

Comment summaries

- Heli-hiking and heli-skiing detract from wilderness and should not be allowed within wilderness parks.
- Fly-in rules for provincial parks should be at least as stringent as they are for national parks.
- Exclude commercial developments such as golf courses.
- Building accommodation along lakeshores and licensing guiding to the highest bidder commercially exploit wilderness parks and are in direct conflict with the use and enjoyment of wilderness parks by British Columbia's residents.
- Unique structures such as glaciers, caves and hot springs should be studied, but development should be by the private sector and not the public sector.

Impacts on Traditional Uses

Opinions varied widely over the potential restrictions that the advent of new parks could place on traditional recreation opportunities.

Recreational users expressed concern over losing access to recreational opportunities as a result of the normal restrictions that accompany park status. Many people felt such restrictions discriminated in favour of an elite group of users who might not all reside locally.

Restrictions on specific recreational activities, including driving all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiling, horseback riding and resident hunting, were also a concern to some people.

> *"I would like to see access in these wilderness areas available to snowmobiles."* (Peter Hessels, Pemberton)

> *"I suggest that each type of park, reserve, etc., be rated with an average annual visitors per acre ratio. This will allow expansion of areas of high usage and should also allow the reduction in the size of areas that are consistently below average use."* (Alex Vanveller, Cranbrook)

> *"Most of the regions which I and many of my friends use need vehicle access. To prohibit this access by a park or wilderness area is discriminating against those who cannot walk to these creeks, lakes and mountain peaks."* (Len Gustafson, Nakusp)

> *"I believe park or wilderness status should take precedence.... Motorized access, all-terrain vehicles, motorbikes and snowmobile use should be restricted."* (Peter Mair, Salmon Arm)

Comment summaries

- Backcountry areas are currently open to exploration and enjoyment. Existing uses will be restricted with the designation of a park.
- It appears in some areas that demands for parks are considered only after investments in roads have been made by industry.
- All-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and snowmobiles should be banned from provincial parks.

- Trails or designated areas should be provided for all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles. The exclusion of these uses without alternative locations leads to indiscriminant use.
- Mechanized and consumptive forms of recreation should be excluded from wilderness parks.
- Recreational float planes should have the privilege of flying into provincial parks.
- Access by air should only be permitted for maintenance or reasons of public safety.
- Grazing of livestock should be permitted to accommodate traditional use by ranchers.
- Cattle use should be regulated in parks and possibly decreased to maintain forage for wildlife.
- Existing traplines should not be affected by new parks.
- Trapping should be regulated on a quota system within parks.
- There should be equal access to trapping and hunting opportunities within parks for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal residents of the province.
- Existing traplines should be allowed to evolve into commercial wildlife viewing territories.
- Trapping should not be permitted in parks.

Hunting within Provincial Parks

Hunting is a popular traditional use in much of British Columbia, and park creation generally curtails hunting opportunities for resident hunters. Some people argued that hunting should be used within parks as a wildlife management tool.

On the other hand, there was also strong opposition to hunting from those who believe that wildlife protection should be a goal within parks, and that hunting is incompatible with that goal. Other respondents cited a concern for public safety during hunting season.

"Protect all wildlife in B.C. parks and wilderness areas. Hunting and trapping should not be allowed." (Dick Kalman, Creston)

"I do not want to see any hunting restrictions applied to any area where they are not already in effect." (Roberta Adams, Houston)

Comment summaries

- Animals crossing park borders during hunting season are the easiest prey since they are not used to being disturbed. A buffer area should be considered around parks.

- Hiking in hunting season is dangerous. There are too few government staff for monitoring hunting activities.

Improved Access

Many people called for improving the physical accessibility of park areas for a wider cross-section of the public. Better road and trail access to large parks, for example, were highlighted. Provision for people with restricted mobility was also called for.

At the same time, however, some people believe that increased access will lead to overuse and a deterioration of inherent park values.

"Do not impose such strong restrictions that most of us are unable to benefit....Limiting areas to hikers only, for example, rules out 90% of the population." (C. Unrau, Kaslo)

"The only people that would benefit from these plans would be the able-bodied, or individuals with sufficient revenue to hire either guides or helicopters for access." (no name given)

"I would like to see 'no go' areas in parks so that total unaffected wilderness would remain; and also very limited access areas...that could only be accessed by foot." (Mike Gallagher, Vancouver)

"I feel your park areas should not all be inaccessible.... At the Mackenzie meeting, a few people were worried that the park areas would be accessible only to people who could afford to get into the remote areas. Family areas have to be considered in your final decisions." (Nancy Perreault, Germansen Landing)

Comment summaries

- There are currently enough parks; the problem is that there is not enough access to them.
- In setting aside areas from mining and logging, any practical means of access is eliminated, since it is industry which constructs and maintains roads in the backcountry.
- Access to parks should be developed for ordinary people, not just a few select groups.
- Elderly and handicapped individuals cannot reach remote places without some form of transportation.
- Many of the study areas proposed in the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s project are remote and access should remain limited.
- Conventional road access to these areas will lead to reductions in wildlife populations.
- Making park areas too accessible can lead to overuse. This has been the experience in parts of the United States and Europe.

Facility Development in Parks

Consistent with the suggestions for improving management within existing parks were frequent references to the need for facility development. It was argued that current facilities should be upgraded and new facilities built in existing parks before money is spent on creating new wilderness parks. Serviced campgrounds and trails near urban areas were particularly important to have, noted some respondents.

Individuals and interest groups suggested that a broader range of facilities is now required in parks to meet evolving demands for such uses as horseback riding, cycling, canoeing and kayaking. Trail corridors, they said, should be considered for non-motorized users, and winter recreation activities should have a higher priority than they are now receiving.

Several people called for the development of small parks in popular areas, with facilities for local users.

> *"Do we have to blacktop and manage every foot of recreational area?...Regulate some of these areas as parks for the flora and fauna — not for people...."* (Rob Heil, Chetwynd)

> *"It seems the majority of people prefer a more organized campground setting, with the basic needs such as washrooms, wood supply and fire pits. Maybe the government should spend a little more money on developing more of the existing parks (i.e., expanding the camping facilities), rather than setting aside blocks of land which are not even accessible to the average person."* (Signed: Forest industry employee, Armstrong)

> *"Roadside camping facilities in provincial parks are inadequate to handle the peak summer tourist traffic. Please consider expanding where possible, and reducing time limits in one spot from the current 14 days to 5-7 days so that more can enjoy."* (Mark Fenwick, Vancouver)

> *"Facility development and services in parks should be kept to a minimum. Over-development will defeat the whole purpose of parks to provide an outdoor experience."* (Terry Chow, Prince Rupert)

Comment summaries

- More campsites are needed within driving distance of cities.
- Development of provincial park campgrounds is falling behind each year. BC Parks should consider increasing the size of existing campgrounds and, more importantly, building new ones.
- Planning for facilities should incorporate the needs of seniors and the disabled.

- The park plan seems to focus on motorized access. In addition to foot access, consider cyclists, canoeists and kayakers in planning camping and other park facilities.
- Develop campground potential along highways and recreational travel corridors.
- Tourist facilities should be around the perimeter of parks, leaving the majority of park areas undeveloped.

Maintenance, Monitoring and Enforcement

Some people said they were dissatisfied with the current levels of monitoring the activities within parks, and with the level of maintenance of existing park facilities. Examples were provided of problems with all-terrain vehicle use, vandalism and general overuse. Poor maintenance performance was often linked to privatization of these functions, and to reduced staffing levels.

"Put more people to work patrolling designated areas. You can draw lines on a map, but these places require physical human presence to effect protection." (Glen MacAdam, Port Coquitlam)

"Return to employing BC Parks Wardens on location. Parks contracted out are not keeping up with the high standards that we formerly enjoyed." (Pam Walden, Oliver)

Comment summaries

- Many of the very popular parks could use some expansion, but what is really required is an "overhaul."
- BC Parks should improve the upkeep of their existing parks, instead of making new ones. Many current parks are not adequately maintained.
- BC Parks should concentrate on monitoring the park areas it already has, through more manpower for policing and maintenance.
- Parks should still be run by the Parks Branch and not be "farmed out" to different private sector interests.

Promotion, Interpretation and Education

In general, respondents called for improved park promotion, interpretation and public education so that the current system would be better used.

"I would like to see booklets made available in individual communities which outline recreational opportunities with maps and descriptions. The purpose would be to let people know what their B.C. parks options are when visiting a place." (Dave White, Invermere)

"I don't like to see parks promoted and large numbers of people attracted. I would like to see protection of natural environment have priority over recreation by allowing only primitive travel. Only this will minimize the impact on the environment." (Mike Stini, Port Alberni)

Comment summaries

- To protect the natural environment, backcountry parks should not be promoted.
- BC Parks should improve advertising of existing parks.
- Increased interpretive programs would greatly enhance existing facilities and services, and educate the public about the natural environment.
- In areas that are intensively used, inexperienced people should be educated about safety concerns in parks and wilderness.

User Fees

New park areas will require increases in staffing and funding levels. Suggestions were made for applying user fees and for examining the performance of the current system before new parks are created.

"I think there should be some kind of user pay structure for these parks, wilderness areas and Forest Service campgrounds." (Eric Brebner, Williams Lake)

"Develop parks which can generate enough user activity to eventually fund them. The taxpayer should not subsidize parks for the exclusive use of a small minority of recreationalists." (Paul McWilliams, Prince Rupert)

"The implementation of some small user's fees might help contribute to awareness of use of our wilderness." (Nadene Boyd, Sidney)

Comment summaries

- If new parks are needed, then the users of these parks should pay for them.
- Establish a resident fee for long-term stays in campgrounds and use the money for facility construction.

B.C. FOREST SERVICE ROLE AND GOALS FOR WILDERNESS

POLICY DIRECTION

As with comments directed to provincial parks, respondents generally recognized the need to manage areas of British Columbia exclusively as wilderness. This support for wilderness conservation stems not only from people's desire to visit wilderness or to know it exists, but from their general uncertainty about the state of the environment, and subsequent call for conservative management. Unlike provincial parks, however, there has been little experience with wilderness area management under the *Forest Act*. Consequently, responses were often tempered by the experience gained within provincial wilderness parks.

Support for the Program

Some people believe that the B.C. Forest Service wilderness area designation represents the concept of wilderness more accurately than does a provincial park. It was argued that some form of designation for backcountry is needed which permits limited or managed use of other resource values such as minerals and forage.

> *"Visitors who come from crowded countries take back visions of our forests and lakes and spread the word around. If we preserve and control our wilderness in a sensitive and caring way, we will receive benefits which could enhance many facets of our lives by promoting environmental research and education, bringing employment to local people, prosperity to small towns and above all preserving the land for the enjoyment of our people."* (Mrs. Dora Crut, West Vancouver)

> *"I see excellent potential in the Forest Service Wilderness Program, however, one must be cautious about the number and type of uses permitted in each zone. A meaningful balance between maintaining wilderness intact and allowing extractive activities such as mining must be reached. Certainly some wilderness zones must be created which preclude these sorts of activities."* (T. Manning, Victoria)

"I like the idea of the wilderness areas rather than single use protected lands as parks." (Murray McNab, Ladysmith)

"I feel the Ministry of Forests has passed over its research objective, 'to assess use, demand, and value of wilderness,' before moving to inventory and presenting ideas at public meetings." (G. Tindale, North Vancouver)

"I disagree with this plan as it does not allow logging but it will allow mining and other commercial activities." (Al Sweet, Fernie)

"The B.C. Forest Service Wilderness Program represents my interests the best, and I would like to see it take over the Spruce Lake proposal as well as other areas within the province." (Donald McMahon, Gold Bridge)

Comment summaries

- We need to protect and conserve our wilderness areas for future generations.
- We support the concept of wilderness study areas in principle. Conflicts would be better resolved under a protection plan that holds the value of wilderness itself over the value of timber.
- The Forest Service program seems to lack focus compared to the Parks program. Where will the old-growth program fit with the wilderness program?
- Wilderness for the '90s has more liberal policies and serves more people than does Parks Plan 90.
- The Forest Service has done a good job but is unwilling to give as much as it should.
- A provincial forest wilderness area goes half way in satisfying those groups wanting provincial parks. But this is not enough. Why not make more of a commitment, like a 25-year ecological reserve? Wilderness areas sound like forestry's way of doing nothing and making it look like something.
- Wilderness areas, rather than parks, are very much needed in this province to allow consumptive uses such as hunting, trapping and fishing. Parks' future goals seem to be leading towards eliminating these uses.

- This type of protection may be the most suitable to ensure that enough of the valley bottoms are sufficiently protected.

Implications of an Expanded Wilderness Program

Many respondents were very concerned over the potential loss of timber harvesting opportunities and the introduction of restrictions on existing uses. The identification of so many potential wilderness areas, it was argued, will increase uncertainty for resource-dependent communities. Numerous other respondents suggested that wilderness exists now anyway, and that current uses have not changed the character of those environments. It was argued that, if such were the case, more restrictive formal designations were not required.

References were also made to the general need for improved management of forest lands. It was argued that improved integrated management would reduce conflict and result in fewer demands for designated protected areas.

Recommendations were made to exclude all resource extraction activities from wilderness and then to decide the best mix of land uses through comprehensive land use planning. Wilderness would be one possible outcome, but it would not pre-empt equitable process. Conversely, there is the view that wilderness candidacy provides balance to a planning process which has historically emphasized resource development interests.

> *"We need to be reassured that the future of our area is secure and being well managed — if this means changes in logging practices or changes in management, so be it, but please — let's not fall into management by 'restriction', as the selection criteria for provincial forest wilderness would seem to indicate."* (J. Henry Scown, Nakusp)

> *"Many locals are distrustful of the proposed wilderness designation, not believing that traditional use will occur after the designation is granted."* (Mary Alice Self, Tatlayoko Lake)

> *"Wilderness areas exist* de facto *in B.C. as huge portions of the province which have no extractable resource value. By creating wilderness areas, the already stressed resource [extraction] areas may suffer a concentrated focus of development."* (Bruce Mady, Prince George)

"The areas presented on the draft working map are very large and would impact with the socio-economic needs of resource-dependent communities." (H. Pankratz, New Denver)

"I am not in favour of isolating these [wilderness] areas from present users if the users are not damaging the features which should be preserved." (John Wells, 100 Mile House)

"Inclusion of large tracts of productive forest land should be avoided. Should we be managing large tracts of land for a select few to enjoy, or providing access to a greater number of the public?" (Bill Lasuta, Sechelt)

Comment summaries

- The vast area presented in this program for wilderness designations would devastate the resource-dependent communities.
- *De facto* wilderness within the provincial forest could be given a wilderness designation.
- There is no need for wilderness parks, particularly under a program of such restrictions. It is not good for the economy. It completely cuts off recreation such as skidooing, berry picking, motorbiking and many other aspects of our lifestyles.
- Wilderness values are a resource like any other resource. People who want to promote wilderness designations should identify areas in which there are no established economic interests — in other words, true wilderness areas. Otherwise, the designation process becomes a form of expropriation.
- We need plans that recognize the worth of the forest industry, not only to small towns but to the whole economy of British Columbia.
- The wilderness plan is seen as a land grab sponsored by certain groups to end a way of life as we know it now.
- This program appears to discriminate against the wood industry, as all other activities are allowed under strict guidelines. Timber harvesting should be allowed under the same conditions as other resource uses.

- The proposals are too vague. Boundaries to define an area are needed. Blanket areas over drainages tie up the areas for years in studies, while the economy is suffering from lack of action by government agencies.

- If the Forest Service would act as the protector of natural resources, parks and wilderness areas would not be necessary. They would be everywhere. However, the Forest Service in British Columbia seems to act more in the interests of the logging companies.

- Recognition of the value of wilderness by the Forest Service is a great step forward. Such choices also mean changes in forest management — more community based decisions, higher labour input logging operations, more value-added wood products. With reduced allowable cut, the Forest Service has a great challenge for research and program development in these areas.

- Some resource users in areas proposed for wilderness designation — such as miners and ranchers — are concerned that their tenures could be lost. We need this intermediate wilderness designation in British Columbia, especially where ranching and mining exploration activity are common. It should be made clear to resource users how their interests could be protected within wilderness.

- A good number of areas should be set aside as wilderness areas where access is difficult, rather than the emphasis being placed on provincial parks where motorized access is allowed. Even though this would limit the number of users, it would ensure that a number of areas are kept unspoiled. The worth of an area should not be determined solely on numbers of people who use it.

- Recreation areas are and should be set aside within managed forest lands (i.e., Tree Farm Licenses), but these do not require park designation. By actively managing for recreation, special places can be preserved without park or wilderness area status.

- The program is too restrictive when access is controlled. Too few people get to use the wilderness.

Agency Credibility, Mandates and Roles

Concern was frequently expressed about the appropriateness of the B.C. Forest Service as the agency responsible for administering the wilderness area designation. It seems this issue of credibility is based on two main factors. The first is the issue of past performance of the agency as a primary advocate for maintenance of timber harvest levels, especially during public debates over whether or not logging should occur. Some respondents from resource-based sources accused the Forest Service of deserting its primary client group, the forest industry, in the face of public controversy over wilderness preservation. From past experience, it is difficult for some people to envision a dual role being adequately fulfilled by the B.C. Forest Service. Many argued that the management of all wilderness should rest clearly with BC Parks, and not with the B.C. Forest Service.

The second factor affecting the agency's credibility is its perceived lack of progress. Although wilderness legislation has been in place since August 1987, the B.C. Forest Service has not, said some respondents, made substantial progress toward development of a wilderness program or designation of wilderness areas.

> *"We must foster a conservation ethic in the B.C. Forest Service. The Forest Service has had a new role in wilderness management for the last 3 years, but we have had little response from them regarding conservation area proposals. If the B.C. Forest Service is to be a credible steward of wilderness, it must show how it will conserve natural areas and maintain wilderness."* (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Victoria).

> *"The Ministry of Forests does not have a clear view of its mandate and is continually contradicting itself when they say they are looking after both wilderness and timber extraction interests."* (R. Byford, Cranbrook)

> *"I believe that the Ministry of Forests has a terrible credibility deficit in the area of wilderness preservation. While their document may look nice and sound promising, their record of forest management has been deplorable on the whole."* (Philip Wynne, Victoria)

> *"The forest ministry seems determined to support the giant companies' point of view. I believe that in the end the government will support the industry point of view regardless of the will of the people of B.C."* (Thomas Barnes, Victoria)

"The B.C. Forest Service mandate should be solely forest management. They should be supporting the forest industry with all their power during these trying times of land use debates...to assure an economically viable future for the forest industry." (Don Miller, Cranbrook)

Comment summaries

- The provincial mandate needs to be more defined, have more strength and direction, and have as its first priority the conservation and protection of the wilderness state and the wildlife that reside there.

- The Forest Service wilderness program should be incorporated under the jurisdiction of BC Parks. The decisions made by the Forest Service may be unduly influenced by the well-organized forest lobby.

- The B.C. Forest Service has a vested interest in marketable forest areas. BC Parks should be funded appropriately so they may take over the responsibility of all recreational areas.

- The mandate of the B.C. Forest Service was and should be the management and protection of the working forest. Not any other aspect should deter this ministry from its primary goal. The B.C. Forest Service cannot manage the working forest while protecting public interests such as recreation.

- The Forest Service should leave wilderness management to BC Parks, to avoid duplicating activities.

- The Forest Service should be supporting the timber industry by disallowing forest land alienation such as wilderness.

- The Forest Service should answer to the people and their wishes, instead of catering to the large multi-national conglomerates.

- The forest industry should be backed more by the Forest Service when it comes to deciding whether key areas should be set aside.

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- The B.C. Forest Service has a vested interest in marketable forest areas. BC Parks should be funded appropriately so they may take over the responsibility of all recreational areas.

- The mandate of the B.C. Forest Service was and should be the management and protection of the working forest. Not any other aspect should deter this ministry from its primary goal. The B.C. Forest Service cannot manage the working forest while protecting public interests such as recreation.

- The Forest Service should leave wilderness management to BC Parks, to avoid duplicating activities.

- The Forest Service should be supporting the timber industry by disallowing forest land alienation such as wilderness.

- The Forest Service should answer to the people and their wishes, instead of catering to the large multi-national conglomerates.

- The forest industry should be backed more by the Forest Service when it comes to deciding whether key areas should be set aside.

Defining "Wilderness"

Resource-based interests, primarily in the mining community, argued strongly that the term "wilderness" creates a public perception which adversely affects industrial uses and investments, regardless of eventual designation. Once the term "wilderness" is applied, the public perception is that values exist which deserve protection. This perception results in opposition to industrial activities, whether or not an area ever receives legal wilderness status.

Many respondents questioned the adequacy of the protection afforded by the agency's definition of wilderness. Many saw significant difficulty in reconciling grazing, salvage logging and mineral exploration activity with the concept of wilderness. Suggestions were made to redefine wilderness in more restrictive terms, or to delete the term wilderness altogether in its current application.

> *" 'Wilderness' is an unfortunate choice of words since, to most people, it means an area that has little access and is very restricted in terms of human activities. This misconception has led to much confusion and increased polarity between Share members and proponents of wilderness and park areas."* (Erica Mallam, New Denver)

> *"Change the name of 'wilderness' to something else. Although forestry says mining activity would be allowed in these areas, the term 'wilderness' implies a pristine, untouched area."* (Margaret McPherson, Vancouver)

> *"The Forest Service plan is flawed by using the term wilderness to imply adequate protection when resource exploration and extraction and other uses not conducive to the wilderness aspect may be permitted. The Forest Service should find a different name for this inadequately safeguarded wilderness."* (Norman Pursell, West Vancouver)

> *"I think the term wilderness is not applicable to the levels of protection your agency would provide. You cannot call an area that can potentially see mineral exploration and development a wilderness. The term is deceiving and should only be used in a context where full protection is granted to a land base."* (Brian Higgins, Revelstoke)

> *"The program seems to be a perversion of the concept of 'wilderness,' since it still allows for mineral exploration and road building. The public has no assurance that an area will truly remain a wilderness unless it is protected from all forms of development, for all time, by provincial statute."* (Jim Bauman, Chilliwack)

Comment summaries

- Refrain from using the term "wilderness" in all but those areas that are free from intrusions for resource extraction purposes, including grazing, logging, mining and roaded access.

- The Wilderness for the '90s program must not be used to mislead the public by pretending to provide broad representative protection while preserving only sparsely forested areas.

- In this program and on the draft working map, it appears that industry, logging and mining may have priority over the preservation of wilderness.

- Mining and grazing in wilderness areas require access. Once access is created, the area can no longer be considered as wilderness. This is unacceptable.

- Wilderness area classification does not adequately protect areas from industrial interests. New large protected areas should remain without road access and be protected from industrial exploitation.

- A category is needed that protects some wilderness areas as true wilderness: no roads, no logging, no mining, no trails, no people.

- If the B.C. Forest Service can change these designated boundaries at will, then these areas should be designated provincial parks.

- The B.C. Forest Service should re-classify many areas as "Wilderness Reserves" to exclude industrial activity, including mining.

- Forest wilderness appears fine on paper, but the political whim of any party in power could easily open up these areas to any type of exploitation. Parks seem better protected.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Selection Criteria for Wilderness Study Areas

While wilderness goals were generally supported, many respondents also recommended clearer differentiation between the objectives of the B.C. Forest Service and those of BC Parks.

Specific to wilderness study areas was a prominent concern that the criteria for wilderness candidacy would be aimed at avoiding conflicts with industrial uses. Criticisms focused on the number of proposed study areas above treeline where conflicts with timber harvesting developments are unlikely. References were made to the need for accessible, low elevation wilderness areas and for representation of wilderness landscapes containing commercial forests.

> *"Excellent plan and goals. However, the original 59 study areas are far too limiting. The study areas were arrived at by the process of elimination — by eliminating some very valuable wilderness because of rather biased criteria such as 'conflict with logging.' Also the remoteness from roads needs qualification if an area is over a lake or inlet, or over a rugged mountain range or canyon."* (Ursula Lowrey, Nelson)

> *"It puzzles me as to why such a large percentage of proposed wilderness areas are predominantly above timberline. Since it appears that the driving inspiration behind setting aside such areas is the galloping timber harvesting practices and their environmental impact, should this not be taken into account when selecting areas for preservation?"* (Dave King, Tatla Lake)

> *"Why are none of the preservation 'hot spots' (e.g., Carmanah, Megin, Khutzeymateen and Tsitika) on this agenda?"* (Ralph Keller, Surge Narrows)

Comment summaries

- The B.C. Forest Service wilderness proposals have not had the benefit of a long period of advance planning and many of the proposals are questionable. Some have questionable wilderness value while others do not appear to address issues of competing resource values in a meaningful way.

- Proposals often seem to cover areas with minimal wilderness values or areas that will remain *de facto* wilderness in any event. In several instances, no special values exist to warrant the cost of designating and administering a wilderness area. It does not seem rational to incur costs and forego natural resource revenues for no specific purpose.

- The B.C. Forest Service wilderness goals are very similar to those of Parks, and could be more specific by including the goal of representing each biogeoclimatic zone.

- The specifics of how the point system worked were not included in the pamphlets available to the public.

- If wilderness is a legitimate land use, an area should be considered on its merits as wilderness and not given lower priority if it has timber value.

- Areas identified for wilderness study should be selected solely on their wilderness characteristics. Other values (e.g., mining and forestry) should be considered later in cost-benefit analysis. It appears that mineral potential is already being taken into account in the selection of the study areas, which is probably why areas are left out.

- Areas must not be rejected as wilderness areas because of potential mineral deposits, as seems to have been the case with the Nanika-Kidprice chain of lakes. Wilderness areas should not be limited to locations with no or low timber value.

- The B.C. Forest Service criteria count against an area if it is adjacent to a park. This is backwards when the major resource management need is to preserve large areas capable of being ecologically self-sustaining. Being close to another protected area is a plus.

Biodiversity and Ecological Representation

Responses relating to the proposed wilderness study areas were often made in conjunction with comments on the goals of BC Parks. Many of the same sentiments applied to each, including the preference for a focus on biodiversity and rationalization of boundaries in ecological terms.

"My primary reason for supporting these proposals is biological. As a field biologist, I see a real need to speed up all attempts to preserve as many examples as possible of each biological community in B.C. that we can...[we cannot] continue to alter wild systems throughout this province without having a good supply of intact eco-systems in reserve to serve as reservoirs of genetic diversity...we must set aside several areas which represent each system, because one or two areas can be lost quickly to insect damage or to a single forest fire, rock slide, wind storm or man-induced 'accident.'"
(Brian Retzer, RPBio, Vernon)

Comment summaries

- Diversity of biogeoclimatic subzones and habitats should be included in wilderness areas as a criterion.
- Areas should contain a diversity of vegetation communities, including old-growth forests and valley bottoms instead of just alpine areas.
- Proposed B.C. Forest Service areas seem mainly to represent mountain top and glacial areas. This scheme is too limited. Whole watersheds from mountain tops to river mouths need to be protected.
- Efforts to represent the biodiversity in all geographic areas of British Columbia are commended, but there are not enough "size" or buffer zones for these areas to guarantee their survival. Research and planning for climatic change are needed.

Location, Size and Number of Wilderness Study Areas

The greatest concentration of wilderness study area proposals appears in the southern part of the province where there is the greatest demand, but also the greatest potential for land use conflicts. This concern was reflected in the suggestion that, given the limited uses permitted within wilderness, greater emphasis be placed on northern British Columbia. A related perspective was that northeastern British Columbia holds greater wilderness and tourism values than have been recognized by the Forest Service proposals.

Opinions vary widely on the size of proposed study areas. It was argued that confining wilderness to smaller areas would reduce the social and economic impacts experienced from loss of resource-based activity. Larger wilderness areas, on the other hand, maintain the integrity of the values being protected and reduce fragmentation of ecosystems.

> *"The number of proposed areas is too low. Study far more areas and leave study area options open in perpetuity."* (Glen MacAdam, Port Coquitlam)

> *"Special management areas around small special preserved areas is a better concept [than that proposed in the Wilderness for the '90s]."* (Jim Bass, Port McNeill)

> *"There is a singular lack of proposed study areas where wilderness recreational potential is most likely to be utilized, within easy reach of the population centres on southern Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and in the Southern Interior. To a lesser extent, this same criticism can be levelled at the distribution of proposed [BC Parks] study areas...."* (John M. Newell, P.Eng., Victoria)

Comment summaries

- Provide people with opportunities for a wilderness experience closer to population centres.

- It is hard to understand the total area that may be put aside for wilderness. How much usable land will be put aside and how much unusable land?

- Emphasize large wilderness preserves over numerous smaller ones. The U.S. experience shows that small parcels of land amid logged areas lose their ecological integrity and attract fewer backcountry users.

- Confine wilderness study areas to smaller tracts of land. Greater overall public respect would be gained by Forest Service and BC Parks properly managing smaller areas and not tying up vast natural resources.

- Most areas would have greater value for tourism and backcountry recreation in the long term, compared to short-term logging, mining or other extractive uses. The Rocky Mountains of the north east area are among the last true wilderness and deserve protection.

MANAGEMENT WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

There is little experience with the management of wilderness areas in British Columbia outside Class A provincial parks. For this reason, respondents tended to be less specific about wilderness management than about parks management. Many supported significant restrictions on uses within wilderness areas, and a low level of management activity. Others favoured fewer restrictions so that opportunities for traditional uses could continue, including mineral exploration. Some people said that wilderness should be managed as areas where remote backcountry recreation can be enjoyed, without the elimination of most other activities. The wilderness area designation was so new to some people that they were unaware that timber harvesting is not permitted under it.

In addition, views were expressed on the need for restrictions on hunting, trapping, mining, grazing and all-terrain vehicle use. Some respondents favoured eliminating these "competing uses," while others advanced the need to honour traditional uses and keep future opportunities open.

> *"While compatible recreation is appropriate, protected wilderness areas should not be used to promote tourism. This is not to say that they should not be used for backcountry adventure travel, but if they are used [for] commercial activity, inevitably vested interests that need to maximize profits will take over and in time wilderness values will become eroded."* (Rosemary J. Fox, Sierra Club, Smithers)

> *"I think you have to be very careful with the concept and attitude of 'wilderness management.' In my opinion, wilderness does not require our 'management' — it can do just fine without us. However, I do understand the need to minimize the impact of human use."* (V. Watanabe, Victoria)

> *"As a local who loves the wilderness, I hate to see you people put up your trail head signs and mail your maps all over the country. Places where I once walked now have trails, signs and more and more people. I don't consider that wilderness any more."* (Doug McQuair, Nakusp)

Comment summaries

- Wilderness areas should be kept as "natural" as possible and planning should be done now to avoid indiscriminant disturbance before designation.
- Wilderness should remain "truly risky for humans" and should not be accessible by any motorized means.
- The wilderness program should be more restrictive by ensuring that no motor vehicles, helicopters, hunting or snowmobiles are present.
- Non-resident trophy hunting should not be permitted in wilderness areas.
- Mineral exploration should be prohibited in wilderness areas.
- Phase out grazing leases in wilderness areas in a fair manner over a period of time. Livestock grazing is incompatible with wilderness and water quality.
- Wilderness areas should allow mining, trapping, hunting and fishing, but not the building of any permanent structures.
- Wilderness areas should not be subject to any use by industry of any kind. Recreation facility requirements should only be in areas with a demonstrated need.
- Multiple use, including logging, should be confined to commercial forestry lands. Other uses, including mining, trapping, horse-packing and fly-in fishing, should occur in wilderness on a regulated permit basis where appropriate.
- Any true wilderness must be allowed to burn from natural fires. Fires should only be controlled if they leave the area and threaten adjacent resources or private property.
- Trail development and maintenance should be given a higher priority. User-maintained facilities and trials are one option.

Access to Wilderness Areas

As in the case of parks, strong arguments were made for greater accessibility to wilderness opportunities. This was often related to the desire for some roaded access to selected sites or areas of traditional recreation uses.

Numerous respondents perceived wilderness areas as designations that favour backcountry users only. For these people, equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities was a primary concern.

Other respondents offered the alternative view: wilderness could only remain so if motorized access was not permitted for any reason.

> *"There should be more of a commitment that wilderness areas be roadless areas.... This means that mining companies would not be allowed to build roads to claims during the exploration stage."* (Peter Jordan, Vancouver)

> *"A wilderness area should not be made more accessible for the public unless [there is also the intention that it become] a monitored and controlled park or recreation area."* (S. Kirkman, Kispiox)

> *"There has to be much better and stronger legislation enacted to control off-road vehicles in areas that are to be so designated."* (Tilman Nahm, Grindrod)

> *"Roads should be put into wilderness areas so people know what wilderness is and will fight to look after it."* (Rocky Ehlers, Revelstoke)

> *"It must be closely examined [as to] what each area is being 'protected' from and what the benefits are to the province. For example, is the Dogtooth wilderness [study] area going to sacrifice a multitude of recreation potentials for the province by restricting use and access to the area?"* (M.G. Mozell, Golden)

Comment summaries

- Road access is destroying the backcountry because of the use pressures it brings.
- There should be a ban on all-terrain vehicles, including motorcycles.
- All-terrain vehicle access should be limited or restricted in wilderness.

- Areas should be protected from recreational vehicles, large hiking parties, guide outfitters and snowmobilers, particularly in the alpine.

- Access to wilderness should be on an equal basis for everyone, perhaps by lottery.

- There should be practical access to wilderness so that these areas may be enjoyed by all people. Access may have to be regulated to specific sites or trails and should be established through a consultative process with user groups.

- Roads provide access for seniors and other people who could not otherwise experience wilderness.

- Certainly areas need to be preserved in a wilderness state, but access also needs to be provided so that tourist potentials can be pursued. Without vehicular access, tourist interest cannot be generated.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF PLANNING AND DESIGNATING PROVINCIAL PARKS AND WILDERNESS AREAS

LAND USE DECISION-MAKING

Many respondents favoured the establishment of a province-wide decision-making process, involving all affected government agencies and a wide spectrum of the users of the land base. Resolving competition between land uses was a common concern amongst respondents. Because no visible system currently exists in British Columbia, concern was expressed that future opportunities for conserving wilderness would be lost to development during protracted land use planning processes. Similarly, there is a strong fear in smaller centres and rural communities that there will be short-term hardship on local economies and lifestyles while land use disputes are being resolved.

Land Use Strategy

Despite the wide variation in opinion on the need for an expanded system of parks and wilderness areas — from proponents of wilderness designations, as well as from those who favour fewer restrictions — most respondents called for development of a land use strategy for British Columbia. The primary argument in support of this was that land use decisions related to parks and wilderness should only be made with the benefit of a provincial land use strategy or a comprehensive land use plan.

Many people believe that such a strategy could evolve quickly as a result of the work of the Forest Resources Commission and the Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. However, some respondents were concerned over the approach that would be taken to develop the strategy. Others believed that this public review of proposed study areas would lead directly to park and wilderness designations.

To support an improved decision-making process, noted several respondents, the province must improve its renewable and non-renewable resource inventories.

"It's about time the B.C. government made a commitment to rational land use planning. This will avoid the conflicts that have divided many communities." (Jim Bauman, Chilliwack)

"Your proposals are thoughtful and should be supported in the absence of a well-staffed, stringently regulated, short-term, multiple use lands policy." (Gary Wright, New Denver)

"Study areas should not be contemplated until a land use plan for the entire province has been completed." (Ken Gauthier, Cranbrook)

"Any kind of land use strategy, to be meaningful, will have to find the middle ground and will have to be tough — tough on the Indians, on the preservationist groups and on the forest industry. To make it work, everyone will have to sacrifice something. Numbers of jobs lost is no longer a viable argument.... We must decide on a strategy now." (F. Oliemans, RPF, Vancouver)

"We can't afford to put park development "on hold" while we wait for a land use strategy if resource extraction is to be ongoing." (Nancy Newhouse, Wardner)

"This (parks) Plan will assist in the preparation of a comprehensive land use strategy.... Such a strategy should minimize the haphazard system of resource conflicts that we are currently plagued with." (James Wright, Canoe)

"Many have said that parks and wilderness planning cannot proceed until B.C. has a comprehensive land use plan. I believe that the long process of collecting information on specific areas can begin now, but I strongly contend that no new park or wilderness proposals should be finalized until we do have this comprehensive land use plan. In order to be effective, the parks and wilderness plans must consider the many other land-use planning initiatives that are currently under way." (Angela Spaxman, Vancouver)

"Once you have a framework of rules and guidelines to work from for the entire province, you can begin the [land use] planning process using the same rules and guidelines for every section of the province." (James Reid, Rosedale)

"We urge you to work with Cabinet to secure implementation of a comprehensive, public land use planning process, one which operates province-wide and on a regional basis." (Russell W. Lusk, Q.C., Past President, B.C. Branch of The Canadian Bar Association, Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- A co-ordinated land use strategy should be initiated immediately. The fractured approach to resource use decisions that is currently in progress should stop immediately, including the Parks and Wilderness program.

- This process seems a waste of time and money until the province has an overall land use strategy and has settled aboriginal land claims.

- Without a comprehensive land use strategy in British Columbia, it is difficult to know what areas other groups — for example, the Old-Growth Committee, Forest Resources Commission, and the Round Table on the Environment and the Economy — might suggest be set aside.

- A long-term policy is needed to give parks and wilderness areas equal priority with resource use industries, and to give the decision-makers the political will to maintain it.

- A co-ordinated effort, not an "every man for himself" attitude, is required. In-fighting among ministries, powerful self-interest groups, and misguided urbanites cannot have a positive effect on land use policy and strategies.

- Planning must consider the secondary effects of designations on surrounding areas with respect to visual requirements, access and buffer zones. Land use zoning may be one approach.

- A land inventory is desperately needed for the province for wildlife, timber, wilderness, present use, special features, recreation areas and all other values. British Columbians need this information to assign appropriate values to areas in the decision-making process.

- A decision to remove land from potential industrial uses must include an economic analysis based on sound principles. Projections of future economic and job opportunities resulting from park or wilderness designations have to be examined realistically. Recent economic studies show that the actual benefits in the Valhalla and Moresby cases are substantially less than were the projected benefits.

- The government should come up with a land use policy rather than separate agencies trying to fulfil their mandates separately. This will only lead to further confrontations between user groups in the future. Form a committee with a representative or two from each ministry, with the mandate of recommending an overall provincial land use strategy.

Public Involvement in Decision-Making

Any comprehensive land use decision-making process must seek and accommodate public advice.

Many respondents have strong reservations about future opportunities for participation, because they are skeptical about the sincerity of government agencies. While there was general support for the public process which has been undertaken to this point, many people, particularly at the local levels, fear that community interests will be ignored in the face of political pressures brought by a non-resident, Lower Mainland population.

> *"Is the Parks Plan 90 process a 'real' public input process or is it just publicity? What will be needed in Nakusp, unless the B.C. government wishes to deal with full scale revolt from especially loggers afraid for their jobs, will be a true community forum in which all views can be aired in a respectful way."* (Maggie Bajer, Nakusp)

> *"Let's give British Columbians the chance to make some good land use decisions based on good information. Deciding the fate of rural communities by trying to second guess the urban vote has not in the past made for good land use decisions."* (Art Duhame, North Island Citizens for Shared Resources, Port McNeill)

Comment summaries

- Local advisory committees should be established to ensure that the local concerns of all users are considered.
- The public must be able to debate the land use issues. BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service should organize large scale public forums for this purpose.
- Decisions on land removals must be made by the people directly affected, and not by the population of the Lower Mainland or the international environmental societies.
- The voices of people in locally affected communities should be heard louder than those of people from large urban centres who have nothing directly to lose from land being designated as wilderness.

Call for Moratoria

Those favouring the creation of large parks and wilderness areas are generally concerned that, while negotiations over future land use are under way, a "business as usual" approach will remove options and result in the loss of the values in need of protection. Many people have also called for a moratorium on road building and resource extraction activities until land use decisions are made.

Conversely, those people who depend directly or indirectly on resource-based industries see no reason to exact a price from the status quo before land use decisions are made. They argue that moratoria on extractive activities pre-empt any legitimate decision-making process and presuppose the outcome before implications are known and evaluated. Their concern has resulted in the call for a moratorium on the designation of any more parks or wilderness areas in British Columbia until comprehensive land use decision-making is undertaken.

> *"There should be a freeze on any development in all of these areas until the processes have been approved by Cabinet and initial assessments have been completed."* (Norma Wilson, Vancouver)

> *"I am outraged by the freedom and control that the department of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources has in proposed parks and wilderness areas. I believe it is extremely important that there be a legislative change made that will put all exploration and consumption on hold until the decision process is completed on proposed park or wilderness areas."* (Laurie Embree, Pouce Coupe)

> *"I am asking you to support your concerned British Columbians by ensuring a moratorium is placed on any new land withdrawals from Crown provincial forest until you have a Crown productive forest land inventory identified and valued on a sustainable yield basis, and you have a co-ordinated forest land use strategy made for that land. No withdrawals of B.C.'s 27.6% productive Crown forest land should be made on emotion or be unco-ordinated. It should be mandatory to have an accurate cost-benefit study of real dollars to be generated with post-withdrawal reviews on any land withdrawals supporting this high value resource."* (J.P. Gormley, Cranbrook)

Comments summaries

- There should be an immediate moratorium on development of all areas identified in both BC Parks and B.C. Forest Service proposals, despite the concerns of the mining industry. The alternative will be the loss of wilderness and park values as a result of continued industrial development during the period of land use strategy development.

- There should be a moratorium on any land use alienation until a land use strategy is in place.

- An overall land use policy is required that allows for a sustained standard of living. While all these studies are being undertaken, a great deal of the working land base is tied up with no effort being made to use its potential.

- Once an area becomes a study area, it will be lost forever to future development because of the public's perception of it as protected, and its size will only enlarge.

IMPACT ON ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT AND LIFESTYLE

Because of the preliminary nature of the study area proposals, no economic or employment information or analyses were presented. Respondents indicated, however, that this is an area of major concern, particularly in rural communities.

Strong concern was expressed for the loss of employment in the mining and forestry sectors. Arguments were made that people have worked in harmony with the forest for many years, some for generations. To alter this relationship by creating new protected areas would, many people pointed out, unjustifiably affect the lifestyle of innumerable rural families. People cited not only loss of jobs and reduced standard of living, but loss of access to recreational opportunities in their "backyard."

In the absence of specific information on the timber reserves potentially within a proposed study area, many people presumed that significant reductions to the Allowable Annual Cut could occur, particularly in Timber Supply Areas that currently experience a tight timber supply. Reductions to allowable cut are translated directly into lost forest sector jobs and various associated economic benefits.

In past public debates comparing the merits of protected status with those of timber harvesting, British Columbians have become familiar with both the arguments favouring creation of tourism-based employment and those opposing job loss in the forest sector. Many people in resource-based communities expressed the fear that existing, high-paying forest sector jobs would be traded or lost in favour of projected future tourism jobs at lower wages. This fear was based partly on the perception that the Lower Mainland population views the forest lands of the province as a hinterland or a playground, rather than as a source of wealth now and in the future.

Only a few respondents argued the case for protecting areas in light of new economic criteria or opportunities to create employment in the tourism sector. These people believe that tourism and recreational opportunities would provide long-term economic returns, while logging mature forests provides only short-term gains.

Many people also questioned the wisdom of creating protected areas, given the administrative and management costs and the fact that these areas do not generate revenue for the province. Some argued that it is unrealistic to reduce resource revenue potentials, increase unemployment, and still expect to fund new parks and wilderness areas from public accounts.

Maintaining the Standard of Living

"The vast majority of our citizens now reside in either the Lower Mainland or a few interior urban centers and, as a consequence, they are losing touch with resource based economics. They no longer appreciate that healthy mining and forestry sectors are essential to maintain our standard of living, including all the wonderful social services that we quite often take for granted." (Invermere Forest Association)

"Our forest land base is critical to the provision of all economic benefits in B.C. — jobs, taxes, schools, hospitals, and so on. Our province's future wealth is severely threatened by community watershed areas, wildlife habitat reserves, areas designated as environmentally sensitive, riparian zones for fisheries protection, viewscapes, old-growth preserves, pocket wilderness areas, areas of cultural significance, ecological reserves, areas of unique environmental significance, Native Indian land claims, and others." (Bob Sitter, Vancouver)

"I am convinced that the best way to secure an increasingly sustainable financial yield from these lands for future generations is to preserve the natural habitat." (Eileen Tipper, Creston)

"I am willing to accept a lower standard of living if I can contribute to saving wilderness." (Jan Skiber, Cranbrook)

"I believe that our future lies in tourism and that our primary industries are rapidly being depleted." (Mike Larrett, Queen Charlotte City)

"If British Columbians are going to maintain a lifestyle we are used to, we cannot stand to lose any land base from our 27% workable forest lands." (Brian Traverse, Golden)

Comment summaries

- The standard of living that British Columbians enjoy comes from the wealth created by the use of the land base, to everyone's benefit. How can we create an oversupply of parks and an undersupply of land that is available to provincial income? We must use some of the resources to keep up our ability to support our children and their children.

- The economic impact on the forest industry or surrounding communities has not been considered. The forest industry supports 12% of the work force directly and contributes to a further 26% of the labour force in indirect jobs. Any reduction in the forest land base will have a serious economic impact on the province.

- Jobs and prosperity come first; parks and recreation come somewhere down the list after health care and education.

Concerns for Job Loss and Community Lifestyle Impacts

"I am employed by the forest industry and if the available forest land base is eroded enough (by wilderness areas, for example) I may lose my job.... It seems to me that one has to evaluate the potential losses as well as the gains." (D. Guilbride, Garibaldi Highlands)

"The perceived loss of jobs and livelihood by forest industry workers needs to be addressed by other sectors of the government. There is, in reality, no conflict between preservation and jobs. The government needs to create initiatives in consultation with the forest industry that will produce more jobs per cubic metre cut in B.C." (Raymond Gaudart, Rossland)

"We must not be so anxious to cash in our precious resources on the world market.... Let the forest industry go ahead with its threats to lay off workers in reaction to new parks. Forestry has to slow down now or come to a major halt in 15-20 years anyway." (Darcy MacKinnon, Castlegar)

"We need industry in this valley not parks. Our young people have nothing but $5 an hour jobs." (N. Rad, Invermere)

"[Any planning process] has to take into account the social impact of land withdrawal from productive forest land. IWA-Canada members have lost jobs in the past because of park additions and feel threatened by further proposals which do not provide for an overall accounting and planning process which would look at the total effect of Parks 90, Wilderness 90, and the Old-Growth Plan on employment levels in the forest industry." (Sy Pederson, President, IWA Local 1-363, Courtenay)

"Figures supplied to us by the B.C. Environmental Information Institute indicate that the working forest will shrink by approximately 5 million acres or 19% as a result of your department's [Parks] proposals. We find this an unacceptable threat to our heritage and our livelihood." (Paul Lawson, RPF, P. Lawson and Sons, Burnaby)

"The possible loss of jobs is always exaggerated when preservation of ancient forests and other forest land for other purposes, rather than logging, is considered. On the other hand, little issue is made of the loss of jobs through the modernization of sawmills, pulpmills, and the introduction of logging techniques that require less manpower." (Robinson Jack Lester, Kamloops)

Comment summaries

- Understanding the extent of social and economic impacts should be a high priority before any final decisions are made.
- There should not be any new proposals for parks when there is just not enough land left to sustain the forest and mining industries, hunting, fishing and trapping to provide a "necessary economic base" for the local people.
- Wilderness parks should be considered, but they should not be situated where the economy of many communities would be adversely affected.
- There is a great need for wilderness areas and parks, but at the same time those employed by the forest industry feel threatened.
- The creation of parks in rural areas cannot consistently mean a loss of jobs. People must be aware that industry could disrupt their lifestyle as well.
- The timber industry is trying to convince its workers that they are losing their jobs to parks, rather than to mechanization and a declining market.
- The IWA has worked hard to change logging practices to protect fish, wildlife, soil, biodiversity, and so on. This in itself leads to a shrinking productive land base. Silviculture and reforestation can maintain productivity.

Economic Benefits of Recreational Uses

"You cannot depend on tourism for a living in this area." (Natalie Reitmeier, New Denver)

"We need to resist the temptation of quick profits for the long-term wealth that wilderness offers." (John Hawkins, Argenta)

"Wilderness [tourism]...is B.C.'s number 3 industry...[It is] a totally renewable resource...[and] requires relatively undisturbed and wild places. In order to support the tourist industry, it is necessary to protect such areas." (Joseph Agnew, Canadian Recreational Canoeing Assoc., Hyde Park, Ontario)

Comment summaries

- Growth in tourism revenues will continue if we can provide the wilderness experience that attracts most visitors. This will disprove those individuals who claim this province will suffer if it preserves too much wilderness.

- Protection of such prominent watersheds as upper Carmanah, Clayoquot Sound, Lower Tsitika and Khutzeymateen will pay off many times in tourism what they will bring from the one-time harvest of the ancient forest.

- The downturn in the forest industry highlights the need to protect and develop the potential of the tourist and recreation industry, which is growing every year.

- Wilderness and natural ecosystems are our golden geese for the future, when ecotourism and wilderness tourism continue to increase in value in the face of declining opportunities worldwide.

- Jobs in the tourism industry are usually low paying and subject to many layoffs as compared to those in the resource industry. Promises of jobs from previous wilderness areas have not materialized.

- If parks are to be set aside based on tourism, then they should be compared on a dollar-for-dollar basis with forestry, mining and any other business.

- Forestry and mining jobs earn 3 to 4 times higher income than tourism jobs. How much tax does someone pay who earns $200.00/week in the food or accommodation industry? Tourism has a bright future, but only where it complements the economy, rather than substitutes a lower standard of living.

- The Valhalla wilderness park fell short of its prospective job creation goal creating doubts about projections of tourism jobs from park or wilderness designation.

- BC Parks says that over 50% of visitors to parks are British Columbia residents. This visitation will certainly be reduced if the forest industry is affected.

- Too often large corporations with the promise of jobs and development have influenced the decision-making over natural resources. The individual with no financial backing feels he has little influence over government. Listen to what environmentalists are saying. Our wilderness should not be sold to the highest bidder.

IMPACT ON MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Because of the controversy surrounding mineral exploration and development within parks and wilderness areas, the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources joined in the public review process to explain the nature of the industry and the factors to be considered in creating large protected areas. The ministry hosted displays and staff participated on the panel at most public meetings. While there was agreement that agencies should improve co-operation, many respondents questioned the prominent role of the ministry in the process.

The record of public responses indicates that the mining community was well represented in the review process of Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. Many submissions noted the hidden nature of subsurface resources and the subsequent need for long-term exploration access to large tracts of land. In this context, many respondents felt the policy of a time-limited exploration window was technically unrealistic and would discourage investment in subsurface exploration.

Proponents of mineral exploration and development often reinforced the call for comprehensive land use planning which would include economic evaluation of the mining industry's contribution to the provincial economy. Arguments were also presented in favour of evaluating mineral potential before decisions are made to designate protected status.

The mining community opposed the creation of new large parks or wilderness areas and was concerned about the public perceptions created by study area proposals. Several examples were cited illustrating how public perception of wilderness values could lead to exclusion of mineral exploration and development, regardless of whether an area is ever designated for protection.

Mineral Sector Role in Decision-Making

"The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources has no place in the concerns of conservation and park area creation." (Katarina Hartwig, Invermere)

"The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources should have more input and power in decision-making involving these areas." (Rose-Marie MacKay, Invermere)

Comment summaries

- The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources has too much freedom and control in proposed parks and wilderness areas. It is extremely important that there be a legislative change made that will put all exploration and development on hold until the decision-making process is completed on a proposed park and wilderness area.

- The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources will continue to have enormous influence on designation of park and wilderness areas. The current 10-year exploration period before designation extends the waiting for reclassification to the benefit of mining interests. Lapsed mining leases in study areas should be purchased by the province and not be available for resale.

- The mining industry appears to have such open access to any and all areas. When plans are finalized, the Forest Service must have the power to deny mining access even for exploration to any areas where it deems such access would be detrimental.

Evaluation before Designation

"I'm concerned about the effect [this program] will have on mining and exploration which is a large contributor to the wealth of the province while using a very small percent of the land base. They can't be squeezed any further....I'm concerned about the mineral potential in all of these areas and feel it should be fully examined before any land is removed from possible exploration." (Betsy van Halderen, Quesnel)

"We are concerned about the 'evaluation before designation' [mineral] policy outlined under large Study Areas. It is a contradiction in terms to evaluate for resource extraction before deciding [in favour of] resource conservation." (Kathleen Gibson, Victoria)

"Areas cannot be simply evaluated for their mining potential before assigning them to other uses. It is ludicrous to expect one government geological crew with a budget of $50,000 to evaluate a proposed park area thoroughly when the exploration industry has been spending $50,000,000 annually for the past twenty years in British Columbia and new deposits are still being discovered every year. One striking example of this is the Eskay Creek deposit, discovered in the last two years within a few hundred metres of mineral occurrences which had been evaluated and discarded repeatedly since 1932." (Henry J. Awmack, P.Eng., Equity Engineering Ltd., Vancouver)

"[A] 10-year period to study mineral values is too short due to changing economic criteria and [our] understanding of the mineralizing process. Geologic formations once thought to be of low potential are now known to contain important mineral resources." (Gordon Ford, Port Moody)

Comment summaries

- The idea of excluding land from having its mineral potential assessed is not socially responsible. Surface surveys used to conduct initial assessment are of very low environmental impact.

- All of these areas have basically ignored the mining and exploration potential and requirements. The effect of exploration on the environment is largely passive. Large areas are required for prospecting in order to discover the rare and tiny areas for mining. Since less than 5% of the province has been extensively explored and the geological and minerals data base is skimpy at best, much more government funding is required to map out each study area in detail before any decisions are made. All study areas should remain open for exploration for 50 years after they are designated for protection.

- Any and all proposed additions to parks should be thoroughly investigated for mining and mineral resources and, if significant, the park status should be delayed until reasonable time has been allowed to realize the mineral resource.

- Legislation that allows subsurface exploration for 10 years in recreation and wilderness areas must be changed. Even exploration with helicopters is very damaging to wildlife, particularly when the animals are breeding and rearing young.

- Mineral potential in any area is constantly changing. Technological advances, economic stability and political stability are large governing factors. Mineral discoveries are not being planned for, they are being planned against. This designation of wilderness areas will stop exploration because of uncertainties.

- Waiting 10 years to assess mineral potential in a recreation area is too limiting. This policy seriously misplaces the intent of park priorities.

Acceptability of Park and Wilderness Mineral Policy

"All areas designated have favourable mineral exploration potential. It would appear that little consideration has been paid to the economic potential." (R. Kemp, Vancouver)

"The term 'Wilderness', if retained, will cause more problems ([in] time, money and manpower) than can be conceived. By virtue of the term, industry will be discouraged from exploring in these areas and it is considered that government will be swayed to discourage such activities in favour of preservationists." (B.C. and Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Mining Association of B.C.)

"It is alarming to see that mining exploration is being allowed in study areas. It is important that if this is indeed allowed, a very close watch be kept on it." (Heather Kellerhals, Heriot Bay)

"My main concern is that mineral exploration and extraction is permitted in Forest Service wilderness areas....[I]t is in conflict with the goals and with the concept of wilderness....[T]he public's concept of the word wilderness implies no industrial intrusion." (Helen Habgood, Vancouver)

"I do not see why there should be exploration and mining allowed in wilderness areas. It is just as disruptive as logging or big tourism-oriented development." (Evi Coulson, Telkwa)

Comment summaries

- Effort by the Forest Service to create some harvesting free zones is commendable. However, it still allows for subsurface mineral exploration and extraction. This is unacceptable in a true wilderness area.

- Development in wilderness areas for any reason is contrary to the concept of designating these areas in the first place.

- Mining should not be allowed in wilderness areas. It is a non-renewable resource extraction activity that destroys the landscape and makes no attempt to rehabilitate those areas.

- "Wilderness" is a misnomer if mining is allowed to continue in these wilderness areas.

- Areas with high timber or mineral values should not be included in the study areas.

- Wilderness areas will greatly discourage potential mine developers from putting risk capital in a location of greater risk, such as a proposed study area.

Regulation and Management

"Mineral exploration and mining should be tightly controlled under strict guidelines in wilderness areas, because the Mining Act *is too broad to apply in this type of situation."* (Tilman Nahm, Grindrod)

"As a member of the mining community, I feel that proper evaluation of an area's mineral wealth is extremely important....[This] can be accomplished provided funding in this area is adequate. This means putting 'qualified' people in the field, as well as in the office doing research." (Greg MacMaster, Vancouver)

Comment summaries

- Parks should be made available to exploration under strict controls and guidelines. Mining companies cannot "check" an area and rule it out for perpetuity. Technology and needs are always changing.

- All of the study areas have mineral potential that cannot be ruled out. The requirement to allow exploration and mining in the present wilderness and parks areas should be permitted only under much stricter conditions than exploration and mining elsewhere in the province.

- If one deposit is found in a designated area, the mining company and the government ministries should negotiate the removal of that small area from protection, replacing it with a similarly sized area elsewhere along the boundaries of the designated area.

- Mining and mineral exploration in remote areas could be a compatible partner with recreation. With proper reclamation, clean mining, tailing disposal and initial processing techniques could be integrated into a quasi-wilderness concept.

- If mineral exploration is to occur in these areas before they become protected, these exploration activities should be closely monitored by full-time environmental supervisors, and more strictly regulated than current exploration activities are.

- The tourism effect from mining history is of great value. Roads and trails created by mining also allow for a greater majority of users to reach these areas.

Compensation for Tenure Holders

"Holders of mineral claims in special areas that are disallowed should be compensated to the value of the money expended by them." (Nancy Anderson, New Denver)

Comment summaries

- BC Parks and the B.C. Forest Service should take into account the mineral potential of the proposed study areas. The areas should be examined for their mineral potential by the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources. If alternative sites to those with mineral potential cannot be found, then the claim holders should be bought out at fair market value decided by independent arbitrators.

- Park expansion should not take place until current mineral claims in conflict are settled.

INTEGRATION WITH ABORIGINAL CONCERNS

Respondents questioned the integration of park and wilderness planning with the concerns of Native Bands and the issue of outstanding land claims. Although Native Band Councils were contacted directly during the public review process, their representation at the public sessions was minimal. Most of the concerns related to aboriginal issues were raised by non-Native people.

Arguments were made favouring moratoria on both developments and protected area designations until aboriginal land claims are resolved. Such suggestions, however, raised fears in some people over the implications of land claims on current ownership and rights to use by non-aboriginal people. There was also concern about the quality of stewardship should that responsibility be passed to Native Bands.

A more moderate suggestion favoured the development of a separate strategy for participation of aboriginal people in Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. As well, several respondents expressed a desire to work with Native Bands to improve the management of park areas and resources, both on reserve lands and in areas of land claims. Working with the Bands, it was argued, would provide the government with the opportunity to integrate the stated goals for parks and wilderness areas with Native cultural values and protection of areas of traditional use.

> *"The issue of native Indian input to the Park Plan 90 process is a serious one. I saw the Chief of the Kitimaat Band...come into the meeting last night, stay for about an hour, and leave. I couldn't read his reaction. Like the Haida and South Moresby National Park, I expect most native groups support greatly increased areas of conservation, but maintain that management of these areas will soon revert to them. They want to maintain the integrity of their natural world, but unquestionably they also want to be able to benefit economically from these resources. I think that these objectives are likely to have a significant influence on the portfolio of parks and their financial positions in the future. And for the present I can only encourage you to continue to seek direct input from native communities in the form and at the venue that is most conducive to their participation (which I take to be very different from the Vancouver public information meeting)."* (Paul St. Pierre, Vancouver)

"Some Crown lands have Native land claims that haven't been dealt with yet! These claims should be dealt with before anything else is even considered!" (Jessica and Joe Klein, Peachland)

"By the time the B.C. government looks after the Native land claims and takes proper care of what we do have, we won't be able to leave our own backyards." (Nolan Rad, Invermere)

Comment summaries

- Areas that form parts of Native land claims should not be designated for logging, mining or pulp mills until these claims are settled.
- Specific consideration should be given to the concerns raised by nearby aboriginal residents, as they have a long-established interest in the resources.
- Aboriginal rights and issues have been generally ignored. The British Columbia government considers itself sole steward of the land.
- Aboriginal people should be involved on a much larger scale, not only in the planning process but also in the policing process.
- Joint ventures with Native groups should be developed. Perhaps economic opportunities could be offered to bands or band members in the development of these parks.
- Aboriginal burial sites should be protected. This could be negotiated as part of land claims. Aboriginal people should be consulted on which of their cultural sites need protection.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON FOREST PRACTICES

In responding to the proposed wilderness system plan, many people also took the opportunity to address other forest management issues. These topics were not directly related to parks and wilderness systems planning, but a summary is included here for completeness.

Concerns were expressed about the use of clearcut harvesting, the rate of harvest, and the opportunities for improving utilization of timber resources. It was argued that planning and harvesting practices require greater sensitivity toward water and watershed protection, and toward the maintenance of scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and the integrity of existing park areas. Consistent with concerns for improved levels of management was the desire for closer monitoring of industrial activities and the application of regulations governing reforestation and environmental quality.

Harvesting Methods

"We must establish ecologically sound practices to which logging companies must adhere before permission to log is given. Only then will we be guaranteed perpetuity of the resource." (Jack and Anne Page, Creston)

"I favour a halt to clearcutting, a reduction in harvest and a commitment to a self-sustainable agro-silviculture. I also favour...a commitment to phase out larger equipment for smaller machines — even horses to harvest our timber. If our sites of active harvesting were not so devastated by logging, they would be more inviting for recreational purposes." (Hank Hastings, New Denver)

Comment summaries

- Eliminate clearcut logging on steep slopes and in sensitive areas where other values require protection, such as in domestic watersheds and along lakeshores.

- Implement tougher regulations that favour selective harvesting over clearcutting.

- Substantially reduce the allowable size of clearcuts to a maximum of 10 or 20 hectares, and use fewer roads and tracts to access them.

- Proper selective logging can preserve the integrity of a forest.

- With proper forest management, there should not be a problem with logging in areas of proposed parks or sensitive wildlife habitat.

- Instead of setting aside small wilderness areas, consider designing large areas for selective logging with horses only.

- Selective logging practices should be used. Selective logging would initially be less cost effective, but would employ more people than clearcut logging. Eventually ways would be found and equipment developed to improve economics.

Rate of Harvest and Timber Utilization

"I would like to see massive efforts made into recycling wood products and into using more of the harvested trees to reduce the need for such great amounts of logging in B.C." (Kate O'Keefe, Johnson's Landing)

"It is impractical for government to allow this [rate of clearcut logging to] continue without demanding a higher level of commitment to sustainable development by these companies." (Stu Garland, Chetwynd Environmental Society, Chetwynd)

Comment summaries

- Over-harvesting in many areas will harm our tremendous potential for tourism in this province.

- Use of timber resources (e.g., chip limbs and stumps) should be improved.

- Raw logs should not be exported. Manufacturing should take place within British Columbia and the manufactured products exported.

- Encourage more secondary manufacturing.

Concerns for Wildlife, Water and Aesthetics

"Buffer zones and visual planning around provincial parks by the Forest Service will not just enhance the parks, but also boost the image of the Forest Service as an agency that manages the whole forest, not only the timber." (Ursula Lowrey, Nelson)

"I am concerned about the cost of providing so-called landscape or viewscape logging plans. I don't believe that reasonably small clearcuts discourage tourists or cruiseship visitors." (Gerry Furney, Port McNeill)

"I feel, based on my long experience as a logger and as a college-educated agriculturist, that foreshore and watershed areas should be selectively logged only.... I have seen many instances where lakes, rivers and streams have been ruined for a few loads of logs." (Robin Hawes, Smithers)

Comment summaries

- Large companies should be required to incorporate landscape management into harvest plans, and to avoid visually sensitive areas entirely.
- Recreation areas, particularly along watercourses, and provincial parks should be buffered from the visual impacts of clearcut logging.
- Timber values in and adjacent to wilderness should be used. However, logging practices should ensure that any impacts are very short term (e.g., three or four years).
- Visual site lines along tourist corridors require protection.
- All water courses should have half a kilometre on each side in which logging does not take place.
- Buffer areas should be reserved around all lakes and swamps to eliminate timber harvesting to the shoreline.
- Habitats for birds and small mammals need better protection. Leave a perimeter to protect snags.

Maintenance and Monitoring

"More control over logging companies needs to be in the hands of B.C.'s people rather than the large forestry companies who don't really seem to have much concern for the long-term future of either our people or resources." (W. Arkesteyn-Vogler, Clearbrook)

"I believe that lands recovering from intensive forestry should be protected from public use, and not be part of a visitor use program, until they are nearing maturity." (Ron Parker, Courtenay)

Comment summaries

- The Forest Service should have more control over logging practices on both public and private lands.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on ensuring proper reforestation takes place on harvested areas.
- The advantages and disadvantages of slashburning should be re-evaluated with the objective of reducing smoke, health hazards, escaped fires and nutrient loss.
- The B.C. Forest Service should assume jurisdiction over the burning of sawmill residue, and require that residues be returned to the forest floor for nutrient base, rather than being burned.
- Pollution from pulp and paper mills should be reduced and regulations more closely enforced.
- The B.C. Forest Service should improve the maintenance and supervision of its existing campgrounds and picnic areas.
- Sensitive areas require closer monitoring.

REGIONAL DISTINCTIONS AND STUDY AREA SUMMARIES

This section of the report provides an overview of some of the recurring topics raised by respondents in different regions of the province. Selected comments on specific regional issues and comment summaries for study area proposals are also included.

For this project, the province was subdivided into six regions which combine BC Park Districts and B.C. Forest Service Regions:

- Northwestern British Columbia including the Queen Charlotte Islands
- Northeastern British Columbia
- South Coast including Vancouver Island
- Cariboo-Chilcotin
- Kootenays, East and West
- Southern Interior - Kamloops and Okanagan

For each of these regions, information is categorized under four headings:

Frequently recurring topics for each region are those topics most frequently mentioned by residents of the area. This list is in no particular order. Other topics raised may be of equal significance and are part of the public record, but were not as frequently discussed at public sessions or in written submissions.

Specific regional comments is a summary of area-specific or region-specific topics which have not been encompassed in earlier comment summaries in this report.

Responses to proposed study areas is a tabular summary of the comments received on the study area proposed on the Parks Plan 90 and Wilderness for the '90s draft working maps. This summary includes comments received on a study area from anywhere in the province. The maps in Appendix 1 illustrate the approximate locations of study area proposals for parks and wilderness in each region.

Other areas are those that were offered by individuals or groups during the public review. A list of other area proposals is included for each region.

Some areas in this list are currently the subject of planning studies intended to lead to decisions on protected area status.

NORTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Frequently Recurring Topics

- A land use strategy is needed before any more protected areas are designated.
- Other agencies with natural resource and environmental interests need to be involved in park and wilderness planning.
- Long-term access to the land base is necessary to the health of the mining industry.
- Mineral exploration and development should not be permitted in parks and wilderness areas.
- The B.C. Forest Service role in wilderness management is not well understood.
- Park and wilderness designations should be based on the management of ecosystems so that biodiversity can be protected.
- Public involvement is critical in all future decision-making for parks and wilderness areas.
- Job loss and other economic impacts must be primary considerations in planning for more protected areas.
- The impacts of Native land claims should be considered in the decision-making process.
- Opportunities for commercial and recreational uses of potentially protected areas by local residents should continue.
- Highway corridors should be managed for improved visual aesthetics and recreation services.
- Marine parks should be designated along the Inside Passage and in areas of frequent use by boaters.

Specific Regional Comments

- A closer assessment of wilderness and park values is needed in the Queen Charlottes, specifically along the northwest coast from Langara Island to Rennel Sound.

- There are many small areas on the Queen Charlotte Islands that could be designated as protected areas. The inclusion of any such areas in park plans should be compensated for by the removal of parts of Naikoon or South Moresby from park designation.

- Old grease trails should be found with the help of the Natives and preserved now. The trails constitute age-old history of at least several centuries.

- There is a desperate need for overnight campgrounds for seasonal tourists. The Hazelton area is heavily used for highway travellers.

- The Smithers and Nass areas are insufficiently represented in protected areas.

- The Spatsizi Park boundaries should be extended, or a buffer zone created to include areas used by mammals in the park.

- More marked trails, preferably some with even crude shelters, are needed in the Stewart area.

- The Queen Charlottes have enough parks and reserve areas which can be opened up for more recreation opportunities.

- A road from Tow-Hill, along North Beach, up to the treeline and down the east coast to Tlell, would enable the people living here, as well as tourists, to really enjoy the Queen Charlotte Islands. Small campsites along the east coast would be a help, too.

- Priority should be given to those areas where remaining wilderness is scarce and where study areas are under imminent threat of loss.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas

Northwestern B.C. - See Map 1, Appendix 1

Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
Large Park Study Area Proposals		
1	Haines Highway Corridor	• maintain traditional uses • high potential of mineral values may outweigh benefits of park status
2	Tutshi-Skagway Corridor	• include Chilkoot Pass - Tagish Lake area • maintain access through this area to move minerals to markets • involve Atlin in decision process
7	Bear Glacier/Pass	• icefield, glacier, lake and Red Top trail important features accessible by road • accessibility important feature for tourism, elderly, handicapped • include Meziadin to Stewart as scenic corridor • consider Salmon Glacier as alternative
9	Nisga'a (Aiyansh)	• important features include easy access, Aiyansh lava bed, hotsprings, spawning pools • potential for developing more campsites, paths and clean-up facilities
12	Campania Island	• include Estevan Group and Douglas Channel sites for recreation anchorages • access very difficult, limiting use to few • boating community should finance park
13	Foch/Miskatla Inlets/Sue Channel	• involve recreation and timber interests in planning • link to Gitnadoix wilderness area • potential for trail system and cabins, good access for Kitimat local use (Jesse Lake area) • include Douglas Channel sites
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
1	Warm Spring (Atlin Lake)	• protect geologic site only • involve Atlin in decision process
9	Dundas Island Sites	• important wildlife and waterfowl area • access very difficult limiting use to few • recreation potential not warranted given costs

Small Park Study Area Proposals		
10	Kitson Island	• access very difficult limiting use to few • recreation potential may not be warranted given costs
11	Lower Skeena River/Estuary Sites	• increase riverside camping, boat access • protect viewscapes from highway rest stops • concern for loss of timber harvest options
12	Porcher/Stephens Island Sites	• consider as undeveloped park • mineral and timber potentials
15	Bulkley Junction	• consider creating a wilderness corridor easily accessible by road • has potential for fishing and river rafting
17	Babine Lake Boating Sites	• protect rock paintings on north shore • chart lake for safety of large boats
25	Rennell Sound	• recreation values currently met with B.C. Forest Service access and campsites • local concern for loss of harvesting employment
26	Yakoun Lake	• extend existing local resource use plan to incorporate recreation values • potential for recreation, easy access, diverse landscapes • local concern for loss of forestry jobs • potential with ¼ mile strip of trees around lake for recreation values
27	Gray Bay/Cumshewa Head	• wildlife, recreation, archaeological values cited • recreation needs met by MacMillan Bloedel/South Moresby committee plans • maintain status quo by multiple use (recreation and harvesting) • strong local opposition expressed • include Copper Bay in proposal
29	Grenville/Finlayson Channel Sites	• exclude commercial timber stands
32	Princess Royal Island Sites	• Koeye Point, Fish Egg Inlet as anchorages • set aside whole island

Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals		
1	Alsek-Tatshenshini Rivers	• link with Kluane/Glacier parks • protection of scenic wilderness values and wildlife populations • mining effluent may pose a threat to water quality and salmon • significant concern to mining community
2	Kitlope Basin	• link with other coast range sites for large biodiversity reserve • largest unlogged temperate rainforest in the world • consider preservation with park status for entire watershed • remain accessible to mineral and timber interests
Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
1R	Burnie/Atna/Telkwa Area	• consider including Gosnell Plateau, Thautil River, entire Morice Lake, and surrounding slopes • winter habitat for ungulates, and wilderness recreation • concern over loss of merchantable timber in valley bottoms
2R	Windy Craggy Area	• there are opposing viewpoints on the proposed copper mine development • entire Tatshenshini/Alsek area should be included in this proposal
4R	Kitlope Lake Area	• Native management may be preferable to public management • access may be very difficult, limiting use • consider including Kowesas, Tsaytis and Gamsby watersheds • designate as a park • protecting this large area may maintain the gene pool necessary to preserve grizzly bears
7R	Banks Island	• consider designating western coastline as wilderness • mineral and recreation interests exist

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
8R	Entiako Lake Area	• concerns for caribou and canoeing can be addressed by existing Ministry of Forests processes • any disruption of landscape may hurt guide and fishing operations
9R	Dundas Island	• include Lucy Island for wildlife, recreation and scenic values
10R	Stephens Island/West Pender	• weather conditions are often severe • access is very difficult, limiting use to few • users should fund this proposal
11R	Atna Pass/Shelagyote Peak Area	• consider adding Driftwood and Frying Pan mountain ranges
12R	Chutine Lake/Whiting River Area	• extend to Stikine River for accessible mountain climbing • include Sweeney Lake, Sibola Peak, and Rhine Crag mountain as special feature
2V	Northwest Graham Island Area	• consider entire north and west coastline • unsettled Haida land claims may supersede designation of park or wilderness status • important salmon streams need protection from logging • strong local opinion that too much of the land base may already be in parks in the Queen Charlotte Islands

[1] Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

[2] "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

1 Lower Stikine River
2 Seven Sisters/Rocher Déboulé Range
3 Skidegate Narrows corridor
4 Khutzeymateen River
5 Cohoe Creek
6 Marie Lake
7 Tlell River area
8 Hudson Bay Mountain
9 Exchamsiks River Extension/Kasiks/Khyex
10 Babine River Corridor
11 Telegraph Creek to Dease Lake Corridor
12 Ruby Mountain volcano
13 Babine RA upgrade and expansion
14 Kitimat River Delta
15 Sustut River watershed
16 Telegraph Line, Terrace to Premier gold mines
17 Anzac/Stepp/Kidprice/Nanika Lake system
18 Cheslatta Lake and River
19 Tasu Sound
20 Grand Canyon on Stikine River (upgrade status)
21 Salmon/Berendon glaciers
22 Taku River corridor
23 North side of Chelaslie Arm
24 Morice River Valley
25 Arctic Lake
26 Ecstall River Estuary
27 Zymoetz River/McDonell Lake area
28 Englefield Bay area
29 Bowser Lake
30 Kaien Island, Mt. Hays, Mt. Oldfield
31 Scoop Lake and Terminus Mtn.
32 Suskwa Pass
33 Lakelse Lake Park addition
34 Mt. Edziza Park addition
35 Lava Forks and Unuk River
36 Gudal Bay and watershed
37 Tahtsa/Whitesail Lake areas
38 South Moresby anchorages (upgrade status)

NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Frequently Recurring Topics

- A land use planning policy and process should be developed to accommodate parks and wilderness concerns.

- Credibility of the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process was questioned as a result of both the magnitude of the project and the past performance of the agencies in following local preferences.

- Economic impacts on resource-dependent communities should be a high priority consideration when decisions are made about parks and wilderness.

- There is a concern that southern coast and Lower Mainland opinions will dominate decision-making for northern areas. Of particular concern are southern opinions surrounding the issues of predator control, hunting, trapping and range burning. It will be necessary to accommodate local management preferences in protected area planning if local support is to be expected.

- There is dissatisfaction with the policy of a 10-year exploration window in provincial parks and recreation areas, both by the mining industry and proponents of park designation.

- Staffing and budgets are currently inadequate to manage the existing parks and recreation areas. There is concern over the wisdom of creating new parks and wilderness areas with no assurance of a commitment for management.

- Concerns exist because of uncertainty about how protected area decisions will be made. The process and the role of the public in the process are unclear.

- Although the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process is good, better co-ordination among agencies is needed to avoid fragmented decisions affecting land use.

- Forest industry interests expressed concern for potential reductions to the Allowable Annual Cut.

- A way to improve the participation of aboriginal peoples in parks and wilderness decision-making should be devised.

Specific Regional Comments

- More small and large study areas are needed in the vicinity of Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Fort St. James.
- More roadside park settings are needed along Highway 97.
- There are no parks or wilderness areas in the Prince George area of any size or substance.
- All areas with good wildlife and scenery should be considered, even if they are not accessible at the moment. Potential areas close to town should be developed for recreation so the general public has access.
- North of Prince George, a dozen more protected areas are needed.
- The northeast portion of British Columbia is unrepresented by these studies.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas

Northeastern B.C. - See Map 2, Appendix 1

Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
Large Park Study Area Proposals		
6	Foothills	• may restrict traditional hunting, trapping and outfitting uses • consider as large national park, including Stone Mtn. to Wokkpash Recreation Area • consider reducing size and adding to Stone Mountain Park
8	Redfern Lake	• may have mineral values • maintain traditional local access corridor for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling
10	Kakwa Additions (North)	• consider as wilderness buffer for existing park • consider joining area with Monkman and upgrade to a Class A park
11	Monkman Additions	• consider migration corridor between Kakwa and Monkman • consider Divide Lake for heritage voyageur route • consider including Kakwa (North), Horsey Creek and Belcourt area as Class A park
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
6	Christina Falls	• consider Sikanni Falls as alternative because of existing road access and established use
8	Peace Corridor/River Sites	• has potential for recreational area plus wildlife sanctuary • provide river access only to maintain ecology and wild experience
19	Takla/Trembleur/Stuart Lakes Sites	• has potential for marine park and camping facilities on Smith Island, Stuart Lake • concerned with potentially reducing mineral and timber rights in area • chart Takla Lake for large boats • defer decision pending outcome of Nak'Azdli land claims

Small Park Study Area Proposals		
21	Pine Pass/Heart Lake	• important features include scenic, recreational values and "pristine" qualities accessible by road • downsize to protect timber harvest opportunities • mineral or timber development may devalue "pristine" qualities
23	Pine River Sites	• consider combining Pine River sites and Pine Pass/Heart Lake • consider corridor to Peace River including Butler Ridge, Portage Mountain
40	Rocky Mtn. Trench Sites	• important features include bunchgrass ecosystem, wetlands, migratory flyway
Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
1G	Fleming Lake Area	• all special features in this area are available in other protected areas. Address issues in this area through Integrated Resource Management.
2G	Mitchell Range	• opposed by mining interest • old growth, wildlife and aboriginal cultural values cited
3G	Boundary Area	• consider joining boundary area with Monkman additions and upgrade to Class A park • important recreational uses valued by trail riders, snowmobilers and hikers • adverse impact on timber use
4G	Horsey Creek Area	• consider Class A park status for the area • timber values existing in the area would be threatened by wilderness designation
5G	Belcourt Area	• consider joining this area to Monkman additions and upgrade to Class A park • consider merging Belcourt, Horsey and Boundary areas and upgrade to Class A park • timber interests dispute existence of special features; already two large parks in vicinity
6G	Mount Selwyn Area	• may impact on mineral interests

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
8G	Premier Range	• maintain heli-skiing operation according to the existing operating area system

[1] Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

[2] "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

39 Mt. Dickenson area
40 Sutherland Valley
41 François Lake, south shore
42 Otter Lake
43 Thutade Lake
44 Beatton River
45 Tatlatui Park addition, Finlay River
46 Herrick Creek
47 Tony Creek
48 Smith Island in Stuart Lake
49 Fort Ware area
50 Mt. Pope and Stuart Lake shore
51 Pink Mtn. area
52 Peace River corridor, between Hudson Hope and Fort St. John
53 Uslika Lake
54 Swift Current Creek, Mt. Terry Fox Park addition
55 Stuart River
56 Goat River Valley
57 Jackfish Lake area
58 Tutizzi Lake area, Omineca River, Germansen Lake
59 Mt. Kimta and Cut Thumb Creek watershed
60 Small and Holliday Creeks
61 Willow River
62 Dome Creek
63 Cranbrook Hill
64 Calendar Creek on Petitot River
65 Raush River wilderness area
66 Rearguard Falls
67 Red Mtn. area including Deserter and Alf lakes
68 Tl'azt'en Nation's wildlife conservation area
69 Spencers Ridge road and Sowchea Creek road
70 North side Peace Arm on Williston Lake
71 Nechako River
72 Fort. St. John area, Cecil Lake, Charlie Lake Cave
73 Chinchaga River and Mulligan Hills area
74 Kiskatinaw Park addition including Kiskatinaw Canyon and bridge
75 Trutch Mtn. and viewpoint area
76 Halfway River corridor
77 Moose Lake area
78 Beaucock Mtn. cave sites, Carbon Creek, Wright Lake

SOUTH COAST

Frequently Recurring Topics

- Many communities believe that BC Parks should have a greater role in the development and management of local parks and recreation facilities, and take the lead role for outdoor recreation in the province.

- A greater number of near-urban recreation areas are needed, with linkages into the communities. More recreation opportunities and greater open "green space" with better access to waterfront areas are also needed.

- Comprehensive financial and environmental analyses are required on each protected area proposal, with additional local community input following these analyses.

- Many people do not believe that the agencies will follow through with the Parks and Wilderness for the 90s process and make timely decisions about protected areas. The period of disruption to people's lives caused by uncertainty of future land uses should be minimized.

- A comprehensive land use plan should precede planning for protected area designations.

- Intact watersheds require protection to preserve west coast old-growth forest environments.

- How appropriate mineral exploration and development is in proposed parks is a major debate. BC Parks mineral exploration policy is considered to be too stringent by the mining industry and significant uncertainty has been created as a result of the Strathcona Park experience. The time-limited exploration process is also unpopular with park proponents because of its potential impact on park values.

- Large population centres seem to carry more weight in decision-making than locally affected communities. More local involvement is needed in decision-making.

- Government needs to make more of a commitment to providing funding to develop and operate any new parks and wilderness areas.

- Cyclists, horse users and all-terrain vehicle users are concerned that Parks and Wilderness for the 90s does not address their needs.

- While there is strong support for a systematic parks and wilderness planning process, there is confusion over the distinctions between different categories of protected areas are not clear.

Specific Regional Comments

- There are more than enough areas set aside in the Regional District of Mount Waddington. The whole North Island and surrounding marine areas comprise a huge *de facto* wilderness.

- No more land on Vancouver Island should be set aside.

- A new study area should be developed within 20 minutes' driving time of the B.C. Ferry Terminal at Bear Cove, Port Hardy.

- Every low-gradient estuary in British Columbia should be inventoried, studied and protected from up-stream logging.

- Develop short distance walk-in campgrounds suitable for family use.

- There are too many proposed areas between Ape Lake and the Nahatlatch River.

- The development of more marine parks should be encouraged, notably in areas accessible by boat. Even the installation of mooring buoys would be an improvement. The proliferation of aquaculture leases in what were safe havens is a backward step in small craft safety. Also, "Marine Parks Forever" and the B.C. Council of Yacht Clubs should be assisted in their efforts to preserve waterfront properties for the use of boaters.

- Consider a Vancouver Island Recreational Corridor from Sooke to Cape Scott between the east coast and the spine of the island which would link the existing trail systems of several major user groups.

- Preserving temperate rain forest should be a first priority in the coast zones.

- More parkland with waterfront access is badly needed in the Gulf Islands.

- Ensure that Mt. Douglas Park, a unique natural park situated within the Greater Victoria area, is protected under the original wording of the Mt. Douglas Park Crown Trust of 1889.

- The most important priority for BC Parks should be to complete the parks system in the most heavily populated areas of the province. These areas include: southeastern Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, the lower Fraser Valley, the dry Southern Interior and coastal old-growth forests.

- Since there are no longer any large watersheds in the Fraser Valley left untouched by resource extraction, pocket wilderness areas should be essential for designation, for recreational and ecological reasons.

- The Sunshine Coast could use more park area along the coast or in the mountain area. A subalpine hiking trail should be established along the entire Sunshine Coast with access trails from the major communities.

- More park areas should be allotted in Sechelt logging areas and the Powell River area. Desolation Sound Marine Park should have access to the Portage between Theodosia Inlet and Desolation Sound.

- The agricultural land reserve and wetland areas close to Vancouver should be strictly protected. We must try to maintain the livability of our urban areas and keep green areas and wetlands close to our cities.

- As much area as possible should be left undisturbed, especially areas adjoining existing Provincial or National Parks.

- More river corridors should be protected as linear parks, both for fisheries and tourist recreation potential. Mountain ridges could be saved as linear parks for future recreational potential. Connect wilderness areas with protected corridors.

- The Fraser Canyon is one of British Columbia's best known features, yet it is not represented in any comprehensive way. North of Lillooet near Big Bar would be a good choice.

- More attention should be given to local recreation and wilderness areas in the Lower Mainland in view of the large population. All remaining lakeshore should be protected (e.g., Harrison Lake).

- The coast of British Columbia is probably the most important area in the province in terms of uniqueness and recreation potential. This importance should be reflected in the final Parks Plan.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas

South Coast B.C. - See Map 3, Appendix 1

Large Park Study Area Proposals

Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
17	Broughton Archipelago (Kwakiutl)	• provide marine park recreation facilities • reduce to protect marine recreation and boat shelter only • concern over local impact on setting aside timber resources; cost of setting aside may outweigh benefits
18	Quadra/Cortes Sites	• include Von Donop Inlet and Squirrel Cove • protect existing trails on Chinese Mtns. and Village Bay Lake for salmon • enhance marine park with portage route and anchorage
19	Garibaldi Addition (E)	• cuts across watersheds; include one watershed and maintain timber harvest in remainder • include Stein Valley, Lizzie Lake, Nahatlatch River areas • consider trail from Parkhurst to Billygoat Creek for overnight trips • more accessible points may be needed to prevent overuse
20	Garibaldi Addition (N)	• restrict logging to prevent defacement on Mt. Currie north face
21	Princess Louisa	• concern over visible timber harvesting • area may be threatened by hydro development • should include entire inlet
27	Nootka Sound	• include marine sites with anchorages • removal of land from forestry activity may hurt local communities • consider cost/benefit analysis to define values
28	Strathcona Addition (W)	• include Megin, Bedwell and Sebalhall valleys, link to Pacific and Della Falls (South) • local concern that economic contribution in forestry and integrated management may outweigh recreation potential • consider marine park only; west coast conditions already well represented

Large Park Study Area Proposals		
29	Strathcona Addition (E)	• land withdrawal may cause job loss, reduced access for mineral interests and loss of access roads for recreation use
30	Cameron Lake	• include Little Qualicum Falls and a corridor along Arrowsmith Trail to MacMillan Park
31	Cowichan River	• consider parking facilities and footpaths • include CN Railway as south border, CN trestle as west border and CN rail line as north border
32	Golden Ears Addition (Alouette Lake)	• potential for additional wilderness campsites, loop trails • consider as ecological reserve to pressure unusual plant species • keep second-growth forest in forest reserve • concern over motorized racetrack near Alouette Lake • include Blue Mountain forest area and Pitt Lake shoreline for added recreational diversity
33	Chilliwack Lake Addition	• concern for water quality with increased recreation activity • should exclude areas of forest activity
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
30	Milbanke Sound Sites	• develop a number of anchorages for tourist use
34	Thorsen Creek	• potential natural and historical destination (old growth and petroglyphs) • concern for reduced timber availability • concern over asking Native permission to visit site • Kimsquit Bay as anchorage
45	Rock Bay	• private development and ownership of RV recreation area preferable locally to public management • strong local support expressed
46	Sunderland Channel Sites	• minimal impact on other values • may not warrant protection
60	Flora Island/Lambert Channel	• extend Rosewall Creek Park to include falls and area to ocean

Small Park Study Area Proposals		
61	Jervis Inlet Sites	• encourage mountain biking and potential recreational values with trails, for Lower Mainland population • include Scotch Fir Point, Maude Bay as anchorage • may effect Nelson Island operations • consider impacts of fish farms
63	Fraser River/Delta Access Sites	• maintain historical uses on Strawberry Island • trails should connect sites with regional and municipal sites
64	Gulf Island Sites	• include Walker Hook, make accessibility an important feature • strong local support expressed • improved anchorages needed
Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals		
3	Brooks Peninsula Addition	• consider as Class A park or ecological reserve, including the Klaskish, Nasparti, Power and Battle Bay-Acous Peninsula • unique botany, birds and wilderness values • demand could be low due to site remoteness and presence of Pacific Rim and Strathcona parks • valuable timber potential
4	Callaghan Lake	• consider park status to provide protection in area of expected high usage • accessibility an important issue for snowmobilers • concern that this proposal and others in the area incorporate no valley bottoms
7	Clayoquot Sound Area	• protection of unique coastal rainforest environment, including wildlife and old-growth forest • recognized as having high recreation and tourism values • with the existence of Pacific Rim Park and Strathcona, creating large parks in areas of valuable forest land may be inappropriate • should be concerned with marine facilities only • concern for job loss and community stability if timber supply reduced

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
1V	Mount Waddington/ Klinaklini River Area	• the area has important vegetation, wildlife, and recreational values • subject to user conflict with forestry, mining and grazing interests
3V	Radium/Hanging Lakes Area	• there are opposing points of view regarding logging in this area; commercial timber and mineral interests as well as recreational values
4V	Upper Lillooet River Area	• consider including Meager Creek hotsprings in the proposal for its recreational value
5V	Ahnuhati River Area	• logging practices in the lower half of the valley may be inappropriate
6V	Nootka Island - West Coast	• consider park designation for entire island (Nuchatlitz Inlet, Saltery Bay, McBride Bay, Sand Point, Catala Island, Queen Cove, Espinosa Inlet)
7V	Pemberton Ice Cap Area	• snowmobiling has occurred in this area for many years, has not been ecologically damaging, and should be allowed to continue • there are high recreational values, such as skiing and hiking in the area • has potential mineral features; and trapping and grazing uses
9V	Nasparti River Area	• consider park designation for the area, including Battle Bay and Power Lake • recreational values include fishing and boating • has commercial timber interest
10V	Pinecone Lake Area	• maintain forest service land base for timber, excluding Pitt Valley and preserve alpine areas • preserve area by maintaining recreation and watershed qualities • local support expressed for Widgeon Lake Park
12V	Tenquille/Owl Lakes Area	• reduce the size of the proposal to exclude the Sockeye Valley • the area has substantial timber and mineral values
13V	Gibson/Klitsa Plateau Area	• timber values are less important than recreation values

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
14V	Lizzie Alpine Area	• logging practices have made this area aesthetically unappealing • uniqueness of area includes lake and alpine tundra • contains high mineral potential • potential loop trails may be developed to afford access to Stein
15V	Nahatlatch River Area	• recreational needs will be met if proposed area is reduced to approximately 1 km of Nahatlatch Lake shore • strong opposition over reductions in the available timber supply and the impacts on local employment and economics
16V	Cheam Peak/Ling Lake Area	• its Lower Mainland proximity means the area may receive more use, which will necessitate an upgrade in classification and facilities • proposal may reduce Fraser TSA • recreational and wildlife values

[1] Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

[2] "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

79 Indian Arm
80 Mt. Lindeman area
81 Mt. Slesse area, Pierce Lake
82 Boundary Bay, Serpentine River area
83 Chilliwack River corridor
84 Burnaby Mtn.
85 Tetrahedron area
86 Caren Range, Upland Sechelt Peninsula
87 Oyster Bay, Anderson Creek, Pender Harbour and island sites
88 Mt. Finlayson, Gowlland Range
89 Carmanah, Walbran and Klanawa valleys
90 Lower Tahsish-Kwois valley, Upper Kauwinch
91 Lower Tsitika valley, heritage trail to Tahsis
92 Statlu Lake
93 Nahwitti and Stranby rivers
94 Hudson Bay trail - Hope to Tulameen
95 Codd Is., Snake Rock, Pitt Polder
96 Nakwakto Rapids, Turret Is., Deer Group Islands
97 Maplewood mud flats
98 Marmot Creek, Sky Pilot Mtn. area
99 Burns Bog
100 Chemainus River corridor, Mt. Whymper, Mt. Landale
101 Sandy Island Park addition, Western shore of Hornby Is.
102 Nahmint valley
103 Skagit Valley Recreation (upgrade status)
104 Escalante Beach
105 Browns River Falls, Puntledge River corridor, Comox Bluffs
106 Garibaldi Park addition, western boundary to Hwy. 99
107 Meares Island
108 Blue Mountain forest
109 Old Great Central sawmill townsite
110 Nanaimo River sites
111 North coast trail Cape Scott to Port Hardy
112 Harrison River
113 Campbell River Estuary
114 Alpha Lake, Knucklehead Mtn. area
115 Tantalus Range

116 Chehalis River
117 Sumas Park addition
118 Baden-Powell trail
119 Inland Lake area
120 Little Bear Bay
121 Elk Bay
122 west fork Sebalhall Creek, Mts. Alava, Bate and Rugged, Haihte Range
123 Owen Lake, head of Montague Creek
124 Confederation Lake area
125 Hell's Gate
126 Eagle Ridge and mtn., Burke and Coquitlam mtns., Coquitlam and Pitt lakes
127 Smoke Bluffs, Stawamus Chief
128 Koeye watershed
129 Saanich Inlet and Todd Creek area
130 Englishman River estuary, Wallis Point, Nanoose Harbour and Hill, Bonell Creek Falls
131 Vancouver Island backbone trail
132 Seal Bay
133 City of Victoria sites
134 Nimpkish Lake
135 Schoen Park to Strathcona Park corridor, Victoria and Warden peaks
136 Arrowsmith trail and Mt. Arrowsmith
137 Sansum Narrows Bluffs and Stoney Hill
138 Mackenzie and Maitland ranges, including Clayoquot River headwaters
139 Texada Island sites
140 Sooke Potholes Park additions
141 Sooke Mtn. Park additions
142 Cobble Hill Mtn.
143 Old Baldy Mtn.
144 Vanishing-Reappearing River and Cave
145 Artlish Cave
146 Thanksgiving Cave ridge
147 Douglas Creek
148 Slollicum Lake
149 Liumchen Lake
150 Pierce Lake
151 Crescent and Swanee Lakes
152 Willow Point reef and foreshore, Oyster Bay, Black Creek estuary
153 San Juan linear park
154 Sombrio Point sea lion cave
155 Parkinson Creek Grotto, Kuitshe seal cave
156 Coon Bay on Galiano Is.
157 Browning Pass (btw. Nigei and Balaklava Island)

158 Esquimalt properties
159 Pylades Park proposal
160 Triangle Lake
161 Koksilah River Park ext.
162 Beaufort Range and Rosewall extension
163 Lomas Lake and Mt. Landale and Mt. El Capitan
164 Alberni Inlet
165 Island Water Marine Reserve
166 North Ainsley Creek
167 Rolley Lake Provincial Park addition
168 Lake Lovely Water Recreation Area - addition and upgrade status
169 Tsawwassen Ferry Causeway
170 Fisherman's Trail - Maple Ridge
171 Green Timbers area - Surrey
172 Terra Nova area - Richmond
173 Cape Palmerston to Cape Parkins coastline
174 Hakai Recreation Area upgrade status, SW coast of Calvert Isl.
175 Marble River
176 Buntzen Ridge
177 Surrey Bend
178 Promontory Park addition
179 Port Douglas to Lillooet Heritage Trail
180 Labour Day Lake
181 Vedder Mountain
182 Cheam Lake Park addition and upgrade status
183 Botanical Beach Park addition
184 Upana Caves
185 Tahsis Mountain
186 Gilford Island sites
187 Cape Caution and Slingsby Channel sites
188 Quatsino Sound sites
189 Minnekhada Regional Park (upgrade status)

CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN

Frequently Recurring Topics

- An overall land use strategy is needed in British Columbia to provide a context for protected area decisions.
- A moratorium should be placed on further protected area decision-making processes until a land use strategy is developed.
- Concern exists over the ability of local residents to influence decision-making.
- The credibility of the B.C. Forest Service is in question because of its apparently contradictory mandates for timber management and wilderness protection.
- Alienation of land from the "working forest" is a concern, particularly for the mining, forestry and livestock industries, if BC Parks' current policy is to eliminate these tenures in parks.
- The proposed areas shown on the draft working maps led to confusion and mistrust. The main concern was that agencies may have already made decisions about which areas should be protected.
- The difference between a park and a wilderness area is not clear.
- Concern exists over the potential economic impacts that could result if interim moratoria were to be placed on potential study areas. Identifying "study areas" can create a false perception that values are at risk and this in turn can create a *de facto* moratorium through public opposition to development.
- Traditional recreational access should not be restricted as a result of protected area planning.

Specific Regional Comments

- The whole area west of Chilco and Taseko Rivers could be a wilderness area.
- Areas identified by the Forest Service around the perimeter of the Cariboo region should be given serious consideration.
- The Cariboo-Chilcotin seems to have its share of parks, but access is the problem, not a need for more park area.
- Some type of reserves along the Fraser River between Lillooet and Quesnel are needed. There are no protected areas of this unique river and river system in the areas of dry belt fir.
- The Fraser Basin or Stuart Plateau should be considered both for their forest types representation and for their high wildlife value.
- More Forest Service campground areas are needed in the Cariboo. This is a reasonably cost-effective and very well used group of campgrounds, and this program should be expanded.
- Representative examples of the diverse landscapes on the Fraser Plateau should be added to the study areas.
- The Central Cariboo area is greatly under-represented in proposed study areas. In the central corridor where the majority of the population and the main travel route exist, representation is inadequate. It is important to have reasonable access to the parks for the citizens of the area. We need more parks locally for recreational use and wilderness preservation.
- Any park planning for these areas must take into account the fact that Williams Lake is a resource industry town and its viability must not be compromised. Tourism will not be able to replace forestry in Williams Lake.
- The Chilcotin River should be designated a Wild River or such other designation as is now identified by the Canadian Heritage River Program.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas		
Cariboo-Chilcotin - See Map 4, Appendix 1		
Large Park Study Area Proposals		
Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
14	Tweedsmuir Additions	• include east Atnarko River • may protect view along Highway 20 • enhancement to MacKenzie trail desirable
15	Titetown Lake	• would protect Mackenzie trail to enhance hiking • extend from upper crossing of Titetown Lake to Gillies Crossing • exclude Yimpakluk and Cotsworth Lakes • important features include original rock dams and 100 pit dwelling sites
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
35	Charlotte/Nimpo/Puntzi	• Charlotte Lake too windy for recreation use • managed hunting and trapping compatible • stress wilderness values of Kleena Kleene and Tatlayoko Rivers • mineral potential present
36	Eliguk Lake	• park redundant since Forest Service site and private facility already, heritage trail already protected • aboriginal cultural values/sites exist
37	Ten Mile Lake Addition	• protect beaver pond from livestock use • increase trail system
39	Quesnel/Horsefly Lake Sites	• concern with potential loss of trapping rights • concern with boat safety and need for lake charts • may already be well represented with Wells Gray

Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals		
8	Chilko Lake	• park designation considered too restrictive for current users (miners, loggers, trappers, cattle grazers and guide outfitters) • designation may be required to preserve tourism, recreation, aesthetic and wildlife values • road access into the area may threaten wilderness value • consult Nemiah Valley Band
9	South Chilcotin	• consider protecting much larger area, including Dash Creek, Lone Valley, Hungry Valley, Stobart Creek, parts of Churn Creek, Taseko Lake and the Tchaikazan, to prevent resource extraction degradation and provide wintering areas for large wild animal populations • recreation and commercial tourism values may have high value • reduce size of area • put on hold pending regional sustainable development strategy • maintain traditional uses • this area is high in mineral potential
Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
1C	Southern Chilcotin Area	• include Big Creek Local Resource Use Plan area for wildlife values • accessibility important feature for tourism and recreation • expand from the boundaries of planned Chilko Park to Camelsfoot Range, south to Carpenter Lake, north to Dash Creek to preserve ungulates and furbearers • concern for access to mineral values

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
2C	Upper Niagara/Matthew River Area	• provide a large wildlife corridor between Wells Gray and Bowron Lakes parks including the Betty Wendle Forest, to protect grizzly and caribou habitats • logging practices in and around Bowron perimeters warrant concern for visual aesthetics and quality of wilderness experience • future timber supply decreased by proposed area • include Cameron Creek, Mitchell River, Penfold Creek, Blue Lead, Summit and Killdog and tips of north and east arm of Quesnel Lake, Wolverine River, Betty Wendle Creek and Upper Cariboo River
3C	Itcha/Ilgachuz Ranges	• allow access for grazing cattle, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, and non-motorized use • consider adding to Tweedsmuir Park for migrating caribou • protect caribou and moose populations by allowing no road access or logging
4C	Coast Mountain/Aplands Area	• logging, ranching, peripheral recreation may be met through integrated resource management • protect area to provide accessible wilderness recreation and scenery
5C	Niut Range	• relatively accessible wilderness recreation • established mineral exploration and cattle rangeland benefits may outweigh recreational considerations • varied alpine areas, wildlife habitat, high scenic values, former Indian grease trail to Bute Inlet
6C	Coast Mountain/Mt. Waddington Area	• include entire Kleena Kleene River and Middle Lake to protect diversity of large animals and provide wilderness experience • the Westbrand, Mosley Creek and Dumbell Lake area may interfere with people's livelihood if designated as wilderness

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
7C	Deception/Boss Mtn. Area	• concern expressed that area is too close to Wells Gray Provincial Park and will not be used • concern expressed about job loss in the forest industry • improved access for horses requested • the area contributes to accessibility and compatibility of Wells Gray Park and is important as wildlife habitat

[1] Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

[2] "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

190 Queen Bess region
191 Snowshoe Plateau, including Goldrush trail between Keithley Creek and Barkerville
192 Horse Lake
193 Pear Lake
194 Narcosli Creek Gorge
195 Fletcher Lake region, including Rushes, Abrams and Hutch Lakes
196 Mts. Murray, Waverly, and Monkton
197 Cottonwood River
198 Fraser River corridor, south of Williams Lake
199 Lac des Roches, Grizzly, Broken Hook, Copper and Bridge Lakes
200 Quesnel Forks ghost town
201 Becher's Prairie
202 Beaverdam area
203 Blackwater River basin
204 Chilanko Marsh
205 Bullock Lakes, Flat Lakes area

KOOTENAYS

Frequently Recurring Topics

- The effects of protected area proposals on jobs and lifestyles should be a primary consideration when new protected areas are contemplated. Forest industry jobs must be protected.
- Provincial parks are generally too restrictive and result in the loss of traditional recreation opportunities for local residents.
- Local residents and communities should have control over decisions that affect them.
- Integrated land use planning should be the means by which land use decisions are made. Parks and Wilderness for the 90s should be put on hold until an integrated land use planning process is completed.
- Many areas will remain as wilderness in the foreseeable future regardless of designation. Therefore, it is not clear why formal designations are needed, particularly when designations entail unpopular restrictions.
- Identification of proposed study areas creates perceptions that restrictions on current activities should be applied immediately, regardless of the value of an area for recreation or special features.
- Parks and Wilderness for the 90s illustrates foresight for conservation needs into the future.
- Decisions about the appropriateness of study areas appear to have been made already, and the two agencies involved in the project cannot be trusted to make these decisions.
- The B.C. Forest Service has neglected its primary mandate for timber management and its primary forest industry client group.
- Protection of wildlife habitat should be a primary criterion for identifying new protected areas.
- Hunting and trapping are being ignored in this process.

- The access requirements of the mining industry are not adequately met by the 10-year window for exploration.

Specific Regional Comments

- The wilderness parks that are proposed over a vast area, on four sides of the upper half of Kootenay Lake and Lardeau Valley, are enormous. This area is the mainstay of our forest-based livelihood and pays the bills to feed and cloth our families.

- The province should look closely at protecting abandoned railway rights-of-way as recreational corridors.

- We should have more parks along the Arrow Lakes which have easier access by all types of tourists. I think we have enough alpine areas for those who want that type of adventure. We need more parks that the everyday tourist or person will make use of lower down, closer to main highways.

- It is important that we get some park land down to the level of the lake in the North Arm of Kootenay Lake.

- The lower Goat River, Creston Valley from Kitchener to Kootenay River, needs a series of shallow, warm pondages with adjacent tourist facilities to service present resident and tourist flow.

- We do not need any more parks in the Kootenay Lake area.

- The more protection of the wilderness and heritage values around Kootenay Lake the better. Tourism has increased in the last 5 years more than in the previous 20.

- Some historic areas in parks — upgraded mine sites, ghost towns, or burial grounds — should be included for education purposes.

- In the Selkirk, Purcell, and Rocky Mountains, all alpine areas above 1,800 metres should be given legislated protection.

- A wilderness hiking trail is needed along the entire length of the east shore of Kootenay Lake from Creston to Crawford Bay, including Kianuko and Lockhart Creeks.

- All watersheds close to human habitation should be given maximum protection.

- There seems to be no proposed wilderness area in the Cranbrook, Yahk and Moyie River valley areas.

- The East Kootenay area seems to have a disproportionate number of proposed study areas, exclusive of any proposals by the federal government.

- Southeast British Columbia appears to be under-represented, both in terms of future parks and wilderness proposals and present protected areas. Accessible, lower elevation parks are especially lacking in and around the Rocky Mountain Trench, and near the centres of Kimberley, Cranbrook, Canal Flats, Fernie, Creston and Golden.

- Provincially significant areas should be set aside for snowmobilers.

- The further expansion of wilderness areas in the Kootenays is over-kill and damaging to our commercial resource base.

- Low elevation lakes and wetlands in the East Kootenay are under-represented.

- Already there are many unregulated wilderness areas in the East Kootenays because of topography. We don't want restrictions on these areas because we enjoy them as they are.

- Areas that are adequately represented should be excluded from existing parks or wilderness areas.

- Riparian zones in the Elk Valley, Fording Valley — both around Elkford — and the Columbia River Valley are not protected sufficiently. Also, the Akamina-Kishinina Ridge is not represented in the Parks Plan 90 map.

- There are no large study areas in the extreme southeast corner of British Columbia.

- Local residents of Windermere-Invermere are very concerned about how little valley bottom land remains as public land.

- Industry interests in such areas need definite direction as to the extent of their "realistic planning horizon." Uncertainty limits capital investment and community stability.

- Public meetings should have been held in more locations.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas

Kootenays - See Map 5, Appendix 1

Large Park Study Area Proposals

Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
16	Clemenceau Glacier	• enlarge to include Cummins Valley and the Athabasca Pass trail and Mt. Columbia • protect old-growth mixed coniferous forest • concern over including any commercial timber
24	Lake of the Hanging Glacier	• include Jumbo Creek headwaters for wildlife protection
25	Sir Sandford	• preserve old growth and wildlife. Make this a priority by including lower elevations (Windy, Palmer, Austerity watersheds; all of Gold River upstream from Bachelor Creek, Cummins Valley) • concern with logging and heli-skiing impacts • consider improving accessibility to area (all local comments)
26	Mt. Assiniboine Addition	• include more low elevation forested areas
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
41	Revelstoke/Kinbasket	• camping, boat launch facilities needed
58	Summit Lake	• accessibility is an important feature for camping facilities and boat launch • include Wragge, Shannon and Summit Lakes to Valhalla north extension
59	Windermere Lake Area	• development on or near the lake and usage of jet boats should be restricted • more public access and public control preferable
68	Christina Lake Sites	• include McRae Creek, Mt. Faith, W. Christina Lake range to represent Okanagan Highlands — S. Columbia Mtns. landscapes
72	Whatshan Lake	• prohibit gas powered boats • swimming, canoeing and clean water are important features • could have selective logging here

Small Park Study Area Proposals		
73	Kootenay Lake Sites	• concern over effect of logging roads • clearcutting the South Columbia range may destroy the aesthetic values along Highway 3A
74	New Denver Bikeway	• maintain local recreational use by skiers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, snowmobiling, motorcyclers, bicycling, walking • local concern over rights of use (i.e., bicycles only, non-motorized use only, multiple use, access by wheelchair) • change of name to North Slocan Corridor Park • local concern over impacts of mineral extraction, trapping and hunting in bikeway area
75	Newgate	• represents E. Kootenay Trench landscape
Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals		
5	Carney Creek	• provide ATV roads • consider wilderness designation for extension from Riondell along Kootenay Lake north to Howser Creek and east to include Jumbo Pass • wildlife, especially Purcell elk, require access zones to lower elevations • logging the east side of Kootenay Lake may detract from local aesthetics and tourism values • protecting this area may result in lost jobs
6	Purcell (East Side)	• consider wilderness designation for extension including Toby, Brewer, Dutch, Findlay and Buhl Creeks for recreation values and habitat protection • concern for job loss in timber sector
Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
2N	Kianuko Creek Area	• the area has intrinsic value, as it contains old-growth trees, subalpine and alpine areas. It also provides excellent habitat for wildlife including grizzly bears. It also has great recreational and tourism potential. • expand the proposal to include the Mallandaine, north to height of land between White Grouse Mtn. down to Hellroaring Creek, south to Kamma Creek

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
3N	Ben Abel Area	• consider a larger area to sustain biodiversity; include Mt. Brewer and Brewer lakes • noise and increased access from heli-hiking may hurt the area
4N	Lake of the Hanging Glacier Area	• a large area is required to sustain the unique diversity of vegetation communities and wildlife habitats
5N	White Grizzly Area	• very polarized views on future of this area • residents dependent upon the timber resource are skeptical about alternative tourism value, especially in light of the economic shortcomings associated with Valhalla Park • logging activity may impose on wildlife and fish populations in the area • recreational values include hiking, fishing, skiing, mountain climbing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, motorcycling and camping • timber values in the proposed area are argued to be marginal, representing an estimated 2-3% of the two TSA's affected • stricter hunting regulations may alleviate fears about protection of grizzly bears
6N	Wigwam Area	• local interest in reducing size to include Desolation Creek only • local economy heavily dependent upon logging and mining • recreation values include whitewater kayaking; good fish and wildlife habitat, particularly for cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden and grizzly bear
7N	Battle Range	• consider including valley bottoms in this proposal, including the Incomappleux River

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
8N	Dogtooth Range	• restricting access to area concerns motorized users, especially snowmobilers • consider including Holt Creek drainage to lower elevations to preserve wilderness experience
9N	Upper Dunbar Creek Area	• may require a larger area to sustain biodiversity • mineral interests exist here
10N	Carney Creek Area	• protect the Kootenay Joe Ridge as a wilderness area used for hiking and wildlife viewing

[1] Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

[2] "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

206 Columbia River wetlands
207 Diorite Valley
208 Ward Creek
209 Keystone-Standard, Serenity Peaks
210 Moyie River Valley
211 Grace Mtn.
212 west arm of Kootenay Lake, Lasca Creek watershed
213 Lockhart Creek watershed
214 Rosebud Lake area
215 Sunshine Ranch area
216 James Chabot Park addition
217 Akamina-Kishinena RA addition, Flathead River drainage
218 Beaverfoot Valley, Moose Creek
219 Vowell Creek corridor
220 Purcell Wilderness Conservancy (upgrade status)
221 Diana Lake area
222 Granby River drainage
223 Mt. Fisher, Mause, Boulder and Cliff Lakes, Dibble Glacier
224 Upper Hornickel Creek
225 Fording Valley
226 Silvercup Ridge, Trout Lake
227 Stagleap Park addition
228 Silver Spring Lake
229 Blaeberry River
230 East Kootenay Trench
231 Mummery Glacier, Howse Pass
232 Buhl Creek, Mark Creek Pass
233 Meadow Mtn. area
234 Mt. Young alpine chain, Lightning Peak, Scaia Mtn.
235 CPR Grand Forks to Naksup
236 Dewar Creek and hotsprings, St. Mary's Prairie
237 Kimberley Wildlife Sanctum, St. Mary's Slough, Alki Creek
238 Silverton Creek
239 Valenciennes River and Canyon
240 Pedley Pass and Windermere Creek
241 Arrow Lake sites, including Lower Arrow east shore, and Shelter Bay
242 Champion Lakes Park addition
243 Dewdney Trail, Christina Lake to Creston, Hannah Ck.

244 Kuskanax Creek
245 Galena Bay
246 Slocan River corridor
247 Elk Lakes Park addition, including Joffre River, Height of the Rockies (upgrade status)
248 Perry Creek, Grassy Mtn.

SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Frequently Recurring Topics

- Development should be put on hold while studies are under way.
- If development deferrals are implemented, these should be time limited and action must be undertaken to resolve issues during the deferral period.
- Existing parks are strongly supported and maintenance of a good quality environment is called for. Disputes arise, however, over the role of parks and wilderness areas in that environment.
- In the South Central Interior, increasing population and heavy recreational pressures indicate that the primary focus should be on the provision of small, user-oriented parks. Protected areas must be dealt with in the short term.
- Public expectations for park and wilderness area designations may be unrealistic as a result of this process.
- Traditional recreational access and uses should not be restricted as a result of new protected area designations.
- Parks and wilderness areas should be designated for the protection of specific wildlife habitats, as well as for ecosystem representation.
- BC Parks should concentrate efforts on acquiring private in-holdings and key pieces of representative areas in the Okanagan.
- A number of linear parks should be developed to link recreation areas with recognized special cultural and historic trail features (e.g., "rails to trails").
- Protection of watersheds should be a priority in this region.
- Timber resources should be maintained and managed for harvesting opportunities and should not be locked up in protected areas.
- The requirements of the livestock industry are not sufficiently recognized in the process.

Specific Regional Comments

- More wilderness parks areas are required in the Shuswap Area. People from Salmon Arm, Kamloops and Chase should not have to drive to Revelstoke or Wells Gray for a wilderness experience when there are beautiful areas nearby.

- There should be several small parks between Lillooet - Gold Bridge, Pemberton Highway 40 and the Hurley River Road. Those roads should become a connector from Highway 12A to the Lower Mainland and should be designated as a tourism travel route. It includes spectacular landscapes, deep canyons, high waterfalls and glacier mountains and it passes through the historic gold mine towns of Gold Bridge and Bralorne. These roads are also the gateway to the proposed Southern Chilcotin and Spruce Lake parks.

- There should be more parkland in the vicinity of Manning Park.

- All rivers should be protected by a wilderness area, or at least be provided a protective buffer zone.

- The proposed Shuswap Bioregion Sustainable Stewardship Plan is good as put forth by the Shuswap Environmental Action Society.

- Sadly lacking are any proposed wilderness areas in the Okanagan and Shuswap Highlands, in such subalpine areas as the Greystokes Plateau and Hunters Range.

- There is good parks and wilderness coverage in the province except in the Thompson-Okanagan areas.

- There are no wilderness proposals in the Thompson Plateau south of Kamloops.

- Campgrounds in the south during the summer are frequently full. We need more campgrounds in the popular areas — Okanagan Valley, Kootenay Lake, Arrow Lake, Slocan Lake, Duncan Lake and Trout Lake — and easier access to Cathedral Park and Shuswap Lakes.

- More overnight camping areas are needed near Kelowna if possible, for equine trail riders use.

- The Okanagan area as a whole should have been considered as a large study area because, with the completion of the Okanagan Connector, this valley will become a major alternative vacation destination for the Lower Mainland.

- The unoccupied land area in and near the Okanagan Lake system should be set aside. A corridor from drainage height to lake shore should be set aside now along both sides of the lake system.

- Any existing wetlands should be protected wherever they are.

- More of the areas of ponderosa pine and grassland need to be set aside in the South Okanagan.

- More marine parks are needed on Interior lakes, accessible to boaters.

- Agricultural lands in both the Okanagan and Fraser Valley should be better represented for their historical value to early British Columbia pioneering.

- Parks and wilderness areas in this region create excellent tourism development opportunities.

Summary of Responses to Proposed Study Areas		
Southern Interior - See Map 6, Appendix 1		
Large Park Study Area Proposals		
Ref. No.[1]	Area Name	Summary Comments on Issues and Values[2]
22	Anstey Arm/Hunakwa Lake	• protect for aesthetic, wildlife, old growth, recreation and native values • lack of other regional areas representative of Shuswap landscape
23	Monashee Addition	• expand to include Spectrum Creek, Sugar Mtn., Kate Lake, Twin Peaks Lake, Rainbow Creek drainage, Pinnacle mountain range, Mt. Begbie, Forstall Creek • hiking trails existing in Pinnacle range • exclude low elevation additions (below 6,500 foot level) or reduce size of proposal
Small Park Study Area Proposals		
47	Duffy Lake	• concern for loss of timber harvest opportunities • consider for potential backcountry recreation, forestry campsites and trails
52	Lac le Jeune/Stake Lake Addition	• concern for access to grazing land, water • increased use could cause pollution • maintain status quo
53	Marble Canyon Addition	• polarized views on appropriateness of this proposal
54	Monck Addition	• increase facilities for local recreation opportunities
56	Stump Lake	• not favoured due to current livestock use, current facilities, distance form nearest centre, amount of deeded property
57	Shuswap Lake Beach Site	• improve access to shoreline • concern with clean water supply; problem with grey water and pollution as a result of increased access
66	Kentucky-Alleyne Addition	• high mineral potential exists

Small Park Study Area Proposals		
67	Paradise Lake	• increasing public and industrial traffic creating land conflict pressures • B.C. Forest Service recreation sites and private resort for accommodation are adequate for area
69	Okanagan Bikeway	• restrict recreation activity to east shore • linear parks should emphasize multiple use
71	Osoyoos Lake Properties	• include desert land and Haynes Point • additional day use and camping facilities for Haynes Point
Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
1K	Spruce Lake Area	• concern expressed that the withdrawal of timber from the Lillooet TSA will affect the local forest industry • alternatives suggested were a small park in the area instead of a large one, or adoption of the Spruce Lake Integrated Resources Management Plan • a local committee should be able to make recommendations about this area directly to Cabinet to protect local economy • accessible to lower mainland population
2K	Middle Stein Area	• protect entire Stein watershed including the north and south Kwoiek drainages, Chochiwa Creek and access from Lizzie Lake and Lytton • area viewed as having wildlife habitat, recreational values and aboriginal cultural and historical values. Area has a range of representative landscapes from desert to rainforest. • protect as a park managed by the Lillooet/ Mt. Currie Bands • a local committee should have the ability to make recommendations directly to Cabinet about effects on the local economy • particular concern over job loss in the forest industry

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
3K	Greenbush Lake Area	• expansion suggested to include the area east of the Perry River and west of Highway 23, Begbie and Cranberry mtns., the Pinnacles, upper Cusson Creek and all areas above 1,500 m • the area is included in Shuswap Tour and Charter Association's plans for a job creation program in the adventure trail industry • concern about the ability of locals to have direct input into decisions affecting this area and the loss of jobs in the forest industry • values include undisturbed watersheds with old-growth and wildlife habitat
4K	Bischoff Lake Area	• the area boundaries should extend from Tumtum Lake southeastwards to slightly south of Eagle Pass Mountain and include adjoining areas such as Seymour River headwaters, Ratchford Creek headwaters, Pyrite and Bews Creeks. It has also been suggested that the surrounding valley bottoms be included. • the values of the area include wildlife habitat, accessible old-growth forests, historic mine sites, minerals • concern over the possible restriction of snowmobiling in this area • area is similar to Wells Gray in elevation and has limited opportunities for recreation development
5K	Dunn Peak Area	• consider boundaries north to Granite, west to Baldy and south to Green Mountains, to include the numerous lakes in the area • improved access for horses has been suggested • significant feature in the Clearwater area; should be designated as wilderness • significant mineral potential

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals		
6K	Bonaparte Area	• logging the slopes of the Bonaparte Valley resulted in damage to the river. Curtail logging in this area. • improved access for horses suggested • the area has historical, biodiversity and high mineral values

1 Reference numbers correspond to those found on the draft working maps.

2 "Comments" are summarized from the record of public advice and do not reflect the position of BC Parks or the B.C. Forest Service.

List of Other Areas

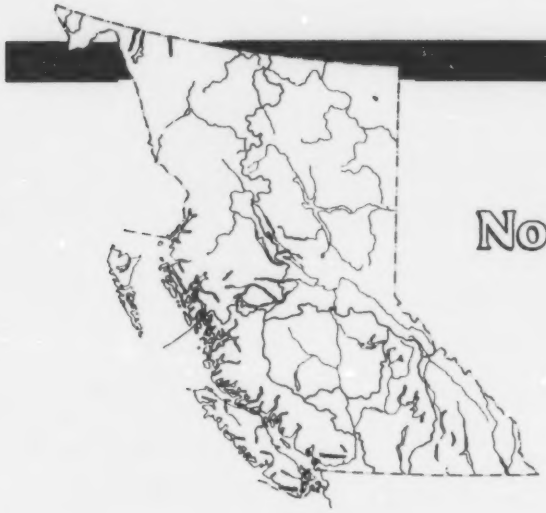
During the public review, individuals and groups suggested the following areas for consideration as future park or wilderness study areas.

249 South Thompson River
250 Crowfoot Mtn., Shuswap area sites
251 Kettle Valley Railway
252 Hudson Bay Fur Brigade trail
253 Lac du Bois
254 Tranquille River, Bachelor Heights area
255 Coquihalla addition
256 Clearwater River corridor, Wells Gray addition
257 Griswold Pass/Slim Creek
258 Clear Range
259 Swalwell, Crooked, Deer, Island and Dee Lake chain
260 Highway 99 corridor
261 Kalamalka Lake Park addition
262 Centennial Trail between Manning and Cathedral Parks
263 Botanie Valley and Mountain
264 Blue River and North Thompson River area
265 Snowy Mountain, Cathedral Park addition
266 Mts. Rabbitt, Riddell, and Boulder
267 Gardom Lake
268 Chase Creek watershed
269 Johnson Lake
270 Skull Mtn., Coral Lake
271 Little White Mtn. area, Crawford Trail, Derenzy Lake
272 McIntyre and Vaseux Creeks junction
273 The Pinnacles
274 Kamloops to Merritt Highway corridor
275 Trepanier watershed, Lacoma and Hayman Lakes, McDougall run track, Shorts Creek Canyon, Bald Range
276 Mt. Boucherie area
277 Silver Star addition
278 Larch Hills
279 Campbell Creek to Kelowna CP rail line
280 Douglas, Nugget and Jimmy lakes area
281 Eagle Pass Mtn.
282 McGillivray Pass
283 Monte Hills area
284 Richter Pass, Kilpoola and Blue lakes

285 Mission Creek area, Jubilee Mtn., Greystokes
286 Nehaliiston area
287 Cooney Bay on Kamloops Lake
288 McIntyre Lake area
289 Rose Swanson Mtn. area
290 Okanagan Commonage area
291 Cerise Creek, Joffre Lake RA addition
292 Brent Mountain, Sheep Rock
293 Otter Lake Park addition
294 Granite Creek recreation site (upgrade status)
295 Kane Lake

APPENDIX 1

STUDY AREA PROPOSALS



Map #1
Northwestern B.C.

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

- 1R Burnie/Atna/Telkwa area
- 2R Windy Craggy area
- 3R Kawdy Plateau/Level Mountain area
- 4R Kitlope Lake Area
- 5R Simpson/Gamble Lakes Chain
- 6R Damdochax Creek area
- 7R Banks Island
- 8R Entiako Lake area
- 9R Dundas Island
- 10R Stephens Island/West Pender
- 11R Atna Pass/Shelagyote Peak area
- 12R Chutine Lake/Whiting River area
- 2V Northwest Graham Is. area

Recommended Wilderness Area

- 13R Swan Lake area

Large Park Study Area Proposals

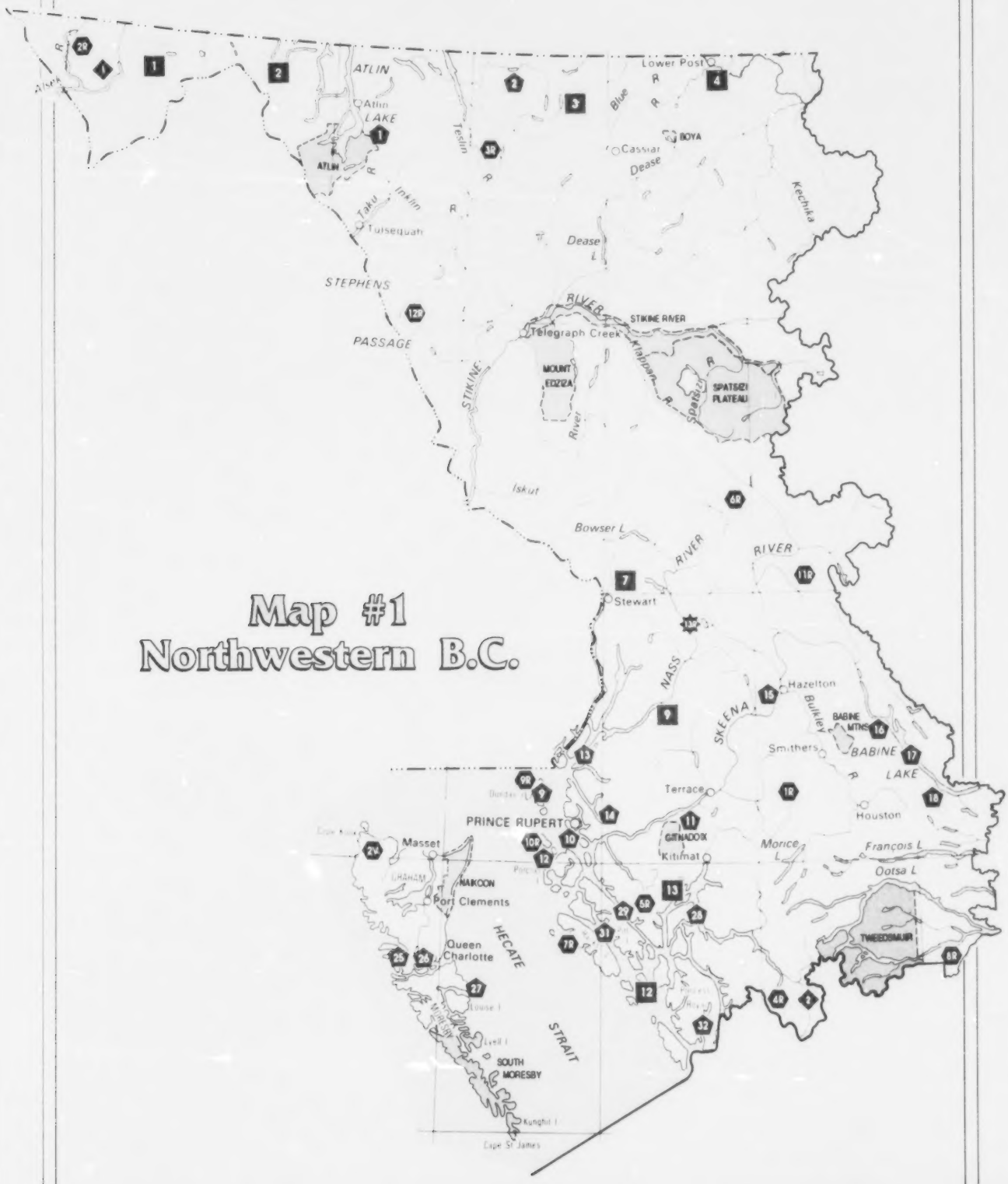
- 1 Haines Highway Corridor
- 2 Tutshi-Skagway Corridor
- 3 Jennings Lake
- 4 Liard Eskers
- 7 Bear Glacier/Pass
- 9 Nisga'a (Aiyansh)
- 12 Campania Island
- 13 Foch/Miskatla Inlets/Sue Channel

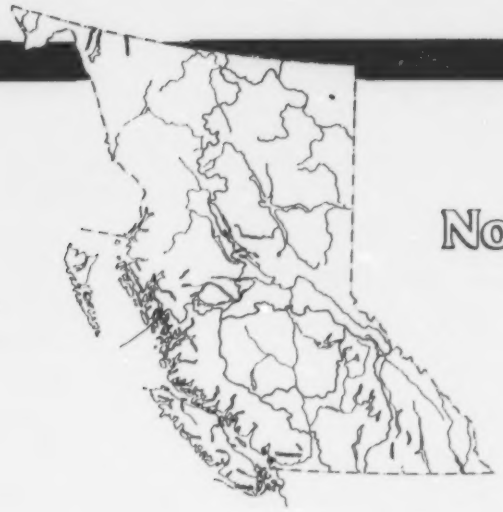
Small Park Study Area Proposals

- 1 Warm Spring (Atlin Lk)
- 2 Swan Lake (Alaska Hwy)
- 9 Dundas Island sites
- 10 Kitson island
- 11 Lower Skeena River/Estuary sites
- 12 Porcher/Stephens Islands sites
- 13 Portland/Observatory site
- 14 Work Channel sites
- 15 Bulkley Junction
- 16 Smithers Landing
- 17 Babine Lk. boating sites
- 18 Pendleton
- 25 Rennell Sound
- 26 Yakoun Lake
- 27 Gray Bay-Cumshewa Head
- 28 Douglas Channel/Gardner Canal sites
- 29 Grenville/Finlayson Channel sites
- 31 Pitt-Anger Island sites
- 32 Princess Royal Is. sites

Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals

- 1 Alsek-Tatshenshini Rivers
- 2 Kitlope Basin


Map #1
Northwestern B.C.
ATLIN
LAKE
Atlin
Lower Post
Blue R
Cassiar
BOYA
Dease
Teslin R
Taku R
Inklin R
Tulsequah
Dease L
Kechika
STEPHENS
PASSAGE
STIKINE RIVER
Telegraph Creek
Klappan R
MOUNT EDZIZA
Stikine River
Spatsizi R
SPATSIZI PLATEAU
Iskut
Bowser L
NASS
RIVER
Stewart
Hazelton
SKEENA
Bulkley R
BABINE MTNS
Smithers
BABINE LAKE
Terrace
Houston
PRINCE RUPERT
Masset
GITNADOOX
Kitimat
Morice L
François L
Ootsa L
HAIDA
HAKOON
Port Clements
Queen Charlotte
HECATE STRAIT
TWEEDSMUIR
SOUTH MORESBY
Kunghit I
Cape St James



Map #2
Northeastern B.C.

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

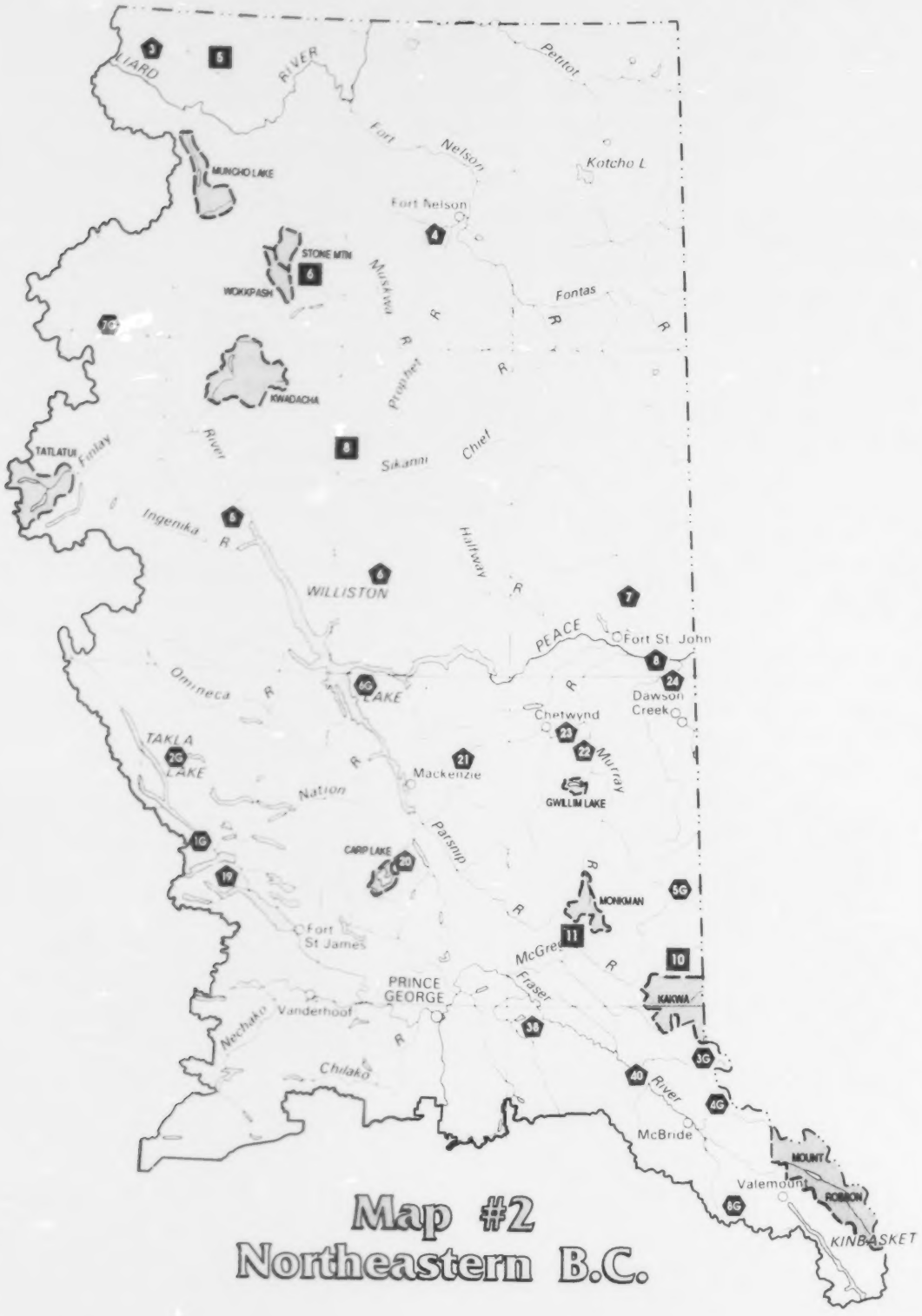
1G Fleming Lake area
2G Mitchell Range
3G Boundary area
4G Horsey Creek area
5G Belcourt area
6G Mount Selwyn area
7G Obo/Johiah Lakes area
8G Premier Range

Large Park Study Area Proposals

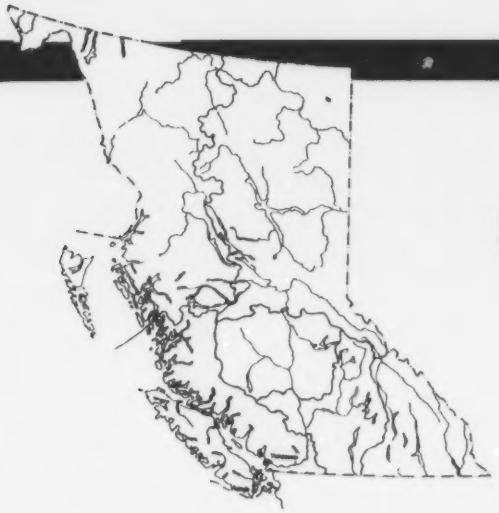
5 Caribou Mtns.-Grayling River
6 Foothills
8 Redfern Lake
10 Kakwa additions
11 Monkman additions

Small Park Study Area Proposals

3 Whirlpool Canyon/Smith River Falls
4 Alaska Hwy Major River access
5 Ed Bird-Estella Lakes
6 Christina Falls
7 Beatton River site
8 Peace Corridor/River sites
19 Takla/Trembleur/Stuart Lakes sites
20 Carp Hill
21 Pine Pass/Heart Lake
22 Murray River sites
23 Pine River sites
24 Rolla Fossil site
38 Purden Lake addition
40 Rocky Mtn.Trench sites



Map #2
Northeastern B.C.



Map #3
South Coast

■ Large Park Study Area Proposals

17 Broughton Archipelago/(Kwakiutl)
18 Quadra/Cortes sites
19 Garibaldi addition (E)
20 Garibaldi addition (N)
21 Princess Louisa
27 Nootka Sound
28 Strathcona addition (W)
29 Strathcona addition (E)
30 Cameron Lake
31 Cowichan River
32 Golden Ears addition (Alouette Lake)
33 Chilliwack Lake addition

● Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

1V Mt Waddington/Klinaklini River area
3V Radium/Hanging Lakes area
4V Upper Lillooet River area
5V Ahnuhati River area
6V Nootka Island - West coast
7V Pemberton Ice cap area
8V Ape Lake/Monarch Glacier area
9V Nasparti River area
10V Pinecone Lake area
11V Bishop River area
12V Tenquille/Owl Lakes area
13V Gibson/Klitsa plateau area
14V Lizzie alpine area
15V Nahatlatch River area
16V Cheam Peak/Ling lake area

⬟ Small Park Study Area Proposals

30 Milbanke Sound sites
33 Bella Coola/Bella Bella marine sites
34 Thorsen Creek
42 Blunden Harbour
43 God's Pocket
44 Smith Sound/Rivers Inlet site
45 Rock Bay
46 Sunderland Channel sites
48 Lizzie Creek/St Agnes Well
60 Flora Is./Lambert Channel
61 Jervis Inlet sites
62 Lasqueti Island sites
63 Fraser river/Delta access sites
64 Gulf Island sites
65 Halkett Bay addition

◆ Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals

3 Brooks Peninsula addition
4 Callaghan Lake
7 Clayoquot Sound area

Map #3
South Coast
FIORDLAND
Ocean Falls
Bella Coola
Bella Bella
HAKAI
Owikeno L
Klimaklin
CAPE SCOTT
Port Hardy
Bute Inlet
Pemberton
Saywar
SCHOEN LAKE
DESOLATION SOUND
BROOKS PENINSULA
Tahsis
Campbell River
Powell River
GARIBALDI
HARRISON LAKE
Gold River
Courtenay
STRATHCONA
Squamish
GOLDEN EARS
STRAIT OF GEORGIA
VANCOUVER ISLAND
PORT ALBERNI
VANCOUVER
New Westminster
Abbotsford
MANNING
SKAGIT VALLEY
Tofino
NANAIMO
PACIFIC RIM
Bamfield
Port Renfrew
CARMANAH PACIFIC
VICTORIA
JUAN-DE-FUCA STRAIT

Map #4
Cariboo - Chilcotin

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

1C Southern Chilcotin area
2C Upper Niagara/Matthew River area
3C Itcha/Ilgachuz Ranges
4C Coast Mountain/Alpands area
5C Niut Range
6C Coast Mountain/ Mt. Waddington area
7C Deception/Boss Mtn. area

Large Park Study Area Proposals

14 Tweedsmuir additions
15 Titetown Lake

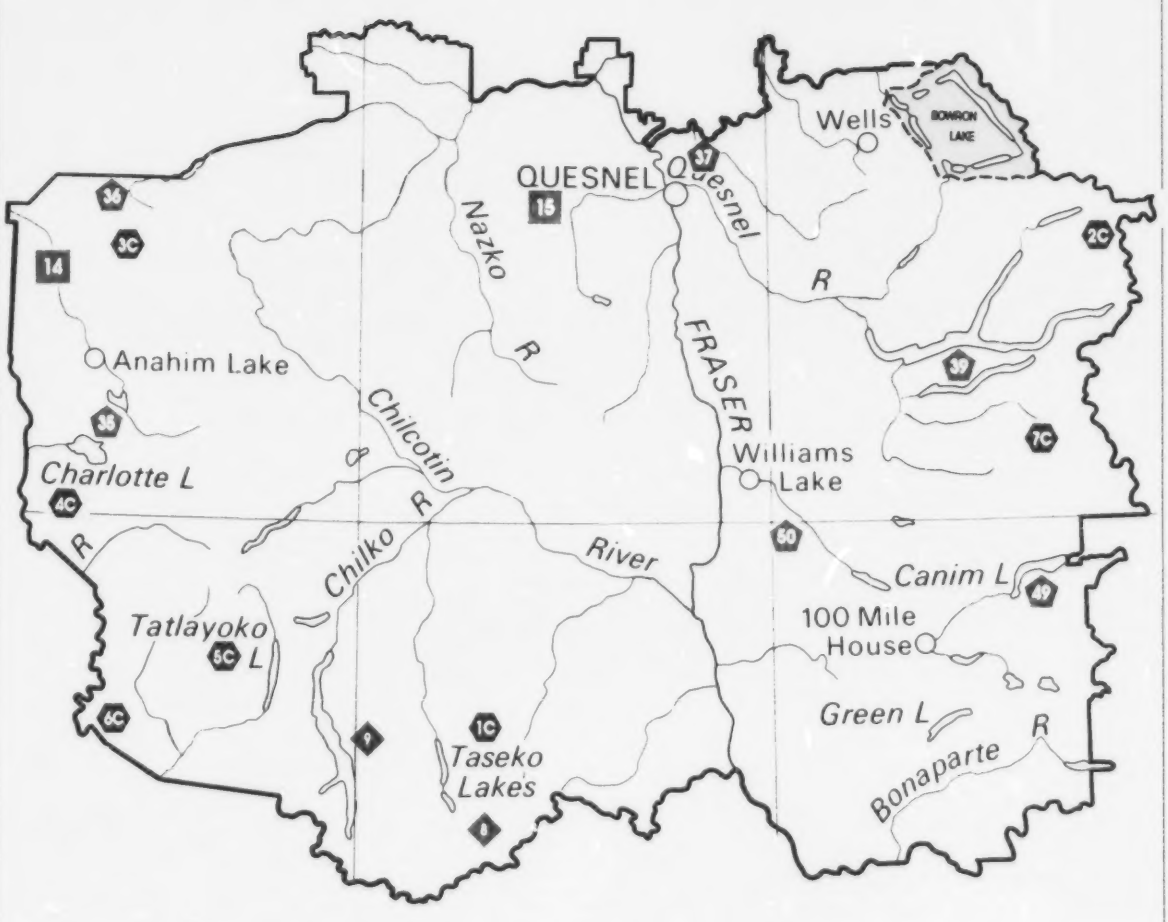
Small Park Study Area Proposals

35 Charlotte/Nimpo/Puntzi/Anahim Lake sites
36 Eliguk Lake
37 Ten Mile Lake addition
39 Quesnel/Horsefly Lake sites
49 Canim Lake
50 Cariboo Corridor sites

Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals

8 Chilko Lake
9 South Chilcotin

Map #4
Cariboo - Chilcotin



Map #5
Kootenays

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

1N	Gladstone area
2N	Kianuko Creek area
3N	Ben Abel area
4N	Lake of the Hanging Glacier area
5N	White Grizzly area
6N	Wigwam area
7N	Battle Range
8N	Dogtooth Range
9N	Upper Dunbar Creek area
10N	Carney Creek area - Gold Range (part of 3K) - Westside area (part of 4K)

Large Park Study Area Proposals

16	Clemenceau Glacier
24	Lake of the Hanging Glacier
25	Sir Sandford
26	Mt. Assiniboine addition

Small Park Study Area Proposals

41	Revelstoke/Kinbasket
58	Summit Lake
59	Windermere Lake area
68	Christina Lake sites
72	Whatshan Lake
73	Kootenay Lake sites
74	New Denver bikeway
75	Newgate

Inter-Agency Study Area Proposals

5	Carney Creek
6	Purcell (East side)

Map #5
Kootenays
HAMBER
16
41
25
Golden
6N
YOHO
MOUNT REVELSTOKE
GLACIER
Revelstoke
7N
Duncan R
Columbia R
KOOTENAY
MOUNT ASSINIBOINE
26
BUGABOO
9N
KOOTENAY R
ELK LAKES
UPPER ARROW LAKE
24
4N
3N
Invermere
6
HEIGHT OF THE ROCKIES WILDERNESS AREA
5N
10N
Elkford
PURCELL
TOP OF THE WORLD
72
74
Slocan L
VALHALLA
KOKANEE GLACIER
KOOTENAY
ST MARYS
LOWER ARROW LAKE
73
Kimberley
LAKE
2N
Cranbrook
RIVER
ELK R
Fernie
1N
NELSON
Castlegar
NANCY GREENE
TRAIL
Grand Forks
68
Creston
Moyie R
75
6N
AKAMINA KISHINENA

Map #6
Southern Interior

Forest Service Wilderness Study Area Proposals

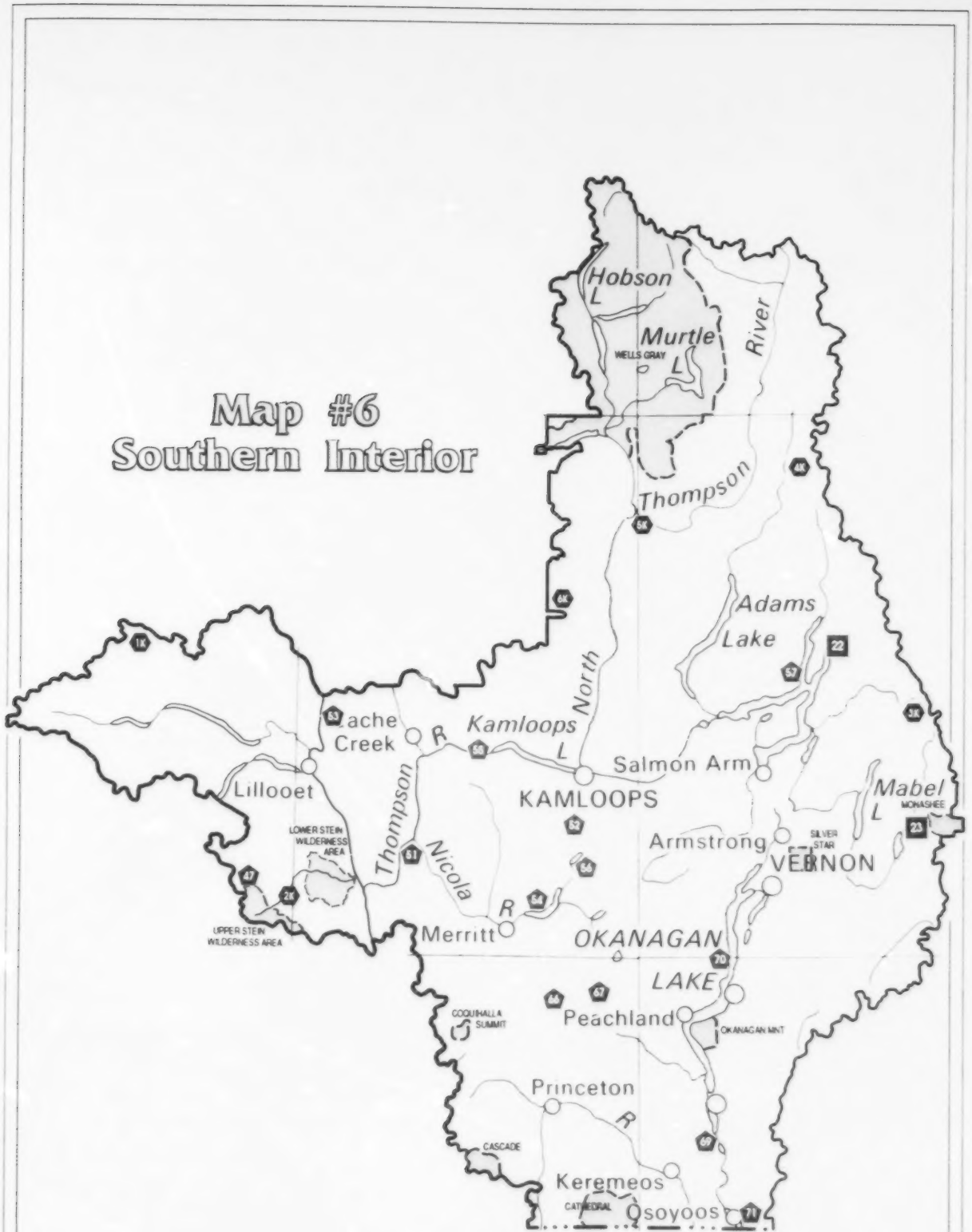
1K Spruce Lake area
2K Middle Stein area
3K Greenbush Lake area
4K Bischoff Lake area
5K Dunn Peak
6K Bonaparte area

Large Park Study Area Proposals

22 Anstey Arm/Hunakwa Lake
23 Monashee addition

Small Park Study Area Proposals

47 Duffy Lake
51 Goldpan expansion/Spences Bridge
52 Lac le Jeune/Stake Lake addition
53 Marble Canyon addition
54 Monck addition
55 Steelhead (Thompson R.)
56 Stump Lake
57 Shuswap Lk Beach sites
66 Kentucky Alleyne addition
67 Paradise Lake
69 Okanagan bikeway
70 Okanagan Lake properties
71 Osoyoos Lake properties


Map #6
Southern Interior
Hobson L
Murtle L
WELLS GRAY
River
Thompson
Adams Lake
North Thompson R
Kamloops L
Salmon Arm
KAMLOOPS
Lache Creek
Lillooet
LOWER STEIN WILDERNESS AREA
UPPER STEIN WILDERNESS AREA
Nicola R
Merritt
OKANAGAN LAKE
Armstrong
SILVER STAR
VERNON
Mabel L
MONASHEE
COQUIHALLA SUMMIT
Peachland
OKANAGAN MNT.
Princeton
CASCADE
Keremeos
CATHEDRAL
Osoyoos

APPENDIX 2

PARKS PLAN 90

Draft Working Map

PARKS PLAN 90

Areas of Interest to BC Parks

BC Parks

Ministry of Parks

One component of B.C.'s protected areas

PARKS PLAN 90

Invitation for Public Comment

Provincial parks are important to British Columbians. These areas preserve our spectacular and diverse natural heritage. Each year, a growing population and tourist industry bring more visitors to our parks (21 million in 1989). At the same time, we in B.C. are recognizing finite limits to our land and resource base. We need to balance protection of our natural environment with the socio-economic needs of resource-dependent communities. Parks Plan 90 will help to find that balance by providing a forum to identify potential parks.

What is Parks Plan 90?

British Columbians have asked for an open public process which they can understand, trust and be a part of in order to address the future of our park system. Parks Plan 90 was created to give everyone who is interested a chance to help British Columbians find balance between parks and other suitable land uses.

Parks Plan 90 is the first public process to discuss the preparation of a system plan for our provincial parks. Parks Plan 90 allows all British Columbians to:

- ❑ review the mandate and goals of BC Parks;
- ❑ review the park system planning process;
- ❑ provide ideas and identify areas which are important as potential parks; and,
- ❑ help the government establish a process to guide park system growth.

Parks Plan 90 will identify a process and timetable for completion of public studies of potential parks.

BC Parks System Planning Process

A system plan directs the long-term future of the park system. It defines the roles and responsibilities of BC Parks, and outlines the relationship between the provincial park system and other protected areas. Through system planning, BC Parks ensures that, by working with all sectors of society, the park system reflects the needs and capabilities of the people it serves.

The park system and our park system planning process have evolved. Parks Plan 90 provides the first comprehensive opportunity for public review and input into the system planning process. BC Parks will follow four steps to devise its system plan.

1. Identify System Goals

The Park Act directs us to "preserve B.C.'s natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public." We aim to balance conservation and recreation.

2. Develop System Design

Specific technical frameworks and policies define each of our six system goals in concrete terms, spelling out what kind of areas, features and/or opportunities should be included in our provincial park system.

3. Evaluate Current Park System

After comparing our park system to our goals, we identified what is missing from the park system (system gaps). Other protected areas, such as national parks or forest wilderness areas, are included in the evaluation. This evaluation is now being publicly reviewed and adjusted.

4. Develop Action Plan

This action plan will identify Study Areas subject to public and Inter-Agency review, prior to proposal of new parks; and present a timetable. At the same time, we will continue to look at those landscapes where there is no identified Study Area.

Parks Plan 90 will identify large Study Areas which will help us meet our conservation goals. As recreation demands change, periodic re-examination of smaller recreation lands will be required.

Parks Plan 90 focuses on defining the land base for completing the park system. The recreation goals, however, also require both facilities and services on these lands. After Parks Plan 90 identifies the land base, a further process will be developed to involve the public in shaping appropriate policies for recreation facilities and services.

Conservation Goal 1 Landscapes

Goal: To conserve B.C.'s natural diversity by protecting viable, representative examples of our different landscapes. In each distinct landscape, such as the Thompson Plateau and the Nass Basin, we would like to protect at least one large, representative area.

Key factors: Landscapes are geographical areas distinctive in terms of landform, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife. BC Parks identified 59 landscapes and the key elements which make each area unique. To evaluate protection of each landscape, we determined how many key elements were represented in our current park system.

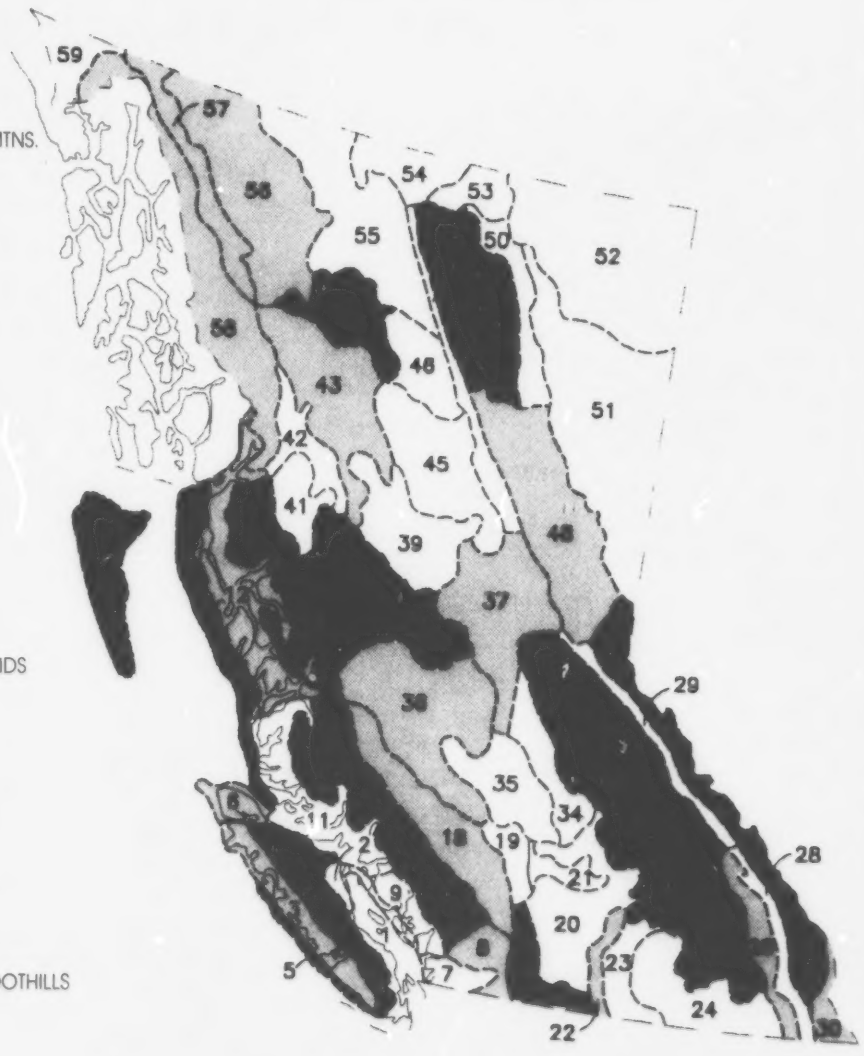
What we found: We found 17 landscapes have near adequate representation; 42 require much greater representation (see map below).
A preliminary list of 25 Study and Inter-Agency Areas was developed to identify potential parks to match missing key elements (see main map, reverse). No areas of interest have yet been identified for 13 landscapes.
The following areas may provide key elements to represent landscapes, but comprehensive landscape reconnaissance will determine if any should be listed as study areas (landscape number in brackets).

Indian Arm-Mt. Seymour (9)
Lillooet Glacier (10)*
Tweedsmuir (Ape Lk) (10)*
Fiordland (Green/Carter) (12)*
Brim-Owyacumish (12&16)*
Princess Royal Is. (12)*
Snowy Alpine (17)*
Marble Ranges (19)
Lac du Bois (21)
Mt. Kobau (22)*
Graystoke-Lock Katrine (23)
SW Kootenay Lake (24)
Galloping Mountain (24)
Christina Lake North (24)
Akamina-Kishinena (30)*
Junction (35)
Seven Sisters (41)
Insect Creek (41)
Roche de Boule (41)
Swan Lake (Hazelton) (42)
Kechika-Gataga River Valley (47)
Hedrick-Dezaiko/Arctic Pac. Lks. (48)*
Wapiti-Onion Lakes (48)*
Bat Mtn. (50)
Klua Lakes (51,52)
Nakina River Basin/Canyon (56)*
Teslin-Disella Lks/Swift Riv. (56)*
Tagish Lake (56,57)*
Great Glacier (Stikine W) (58)*

* Some key elements of these landscapes are already protected as park land.

Landscapes

1. GULF ISLANDS
2. * GEORGIA LOWLAND
3. W. VANCOUVER IS. MTNS.
4. E. VANCOUVER IS. MTNS.
5. W. COAST PLAIN
6. * NAHWITTI LOWLAND
7. * FRASER FLOODPLAIN
8. SKAGIT-LOWER MAINLAND MTNS.
9. SOUTHERN FIORDLAND
10. PACIFIC RANGES
11. * MIDCOAST FIORDLAND
12. NORTHERN FIORDLAND
13. N. COAST LOWLAND
14. Q.C. LOWLAND
15. Q.C. MOUNTAINS
16. KITIMAT RANGES
17. CASCADE RANGES
18. CHILCOTIN MTNS.
19. PAVILION RANGES
20. THOMPSON PLATEAU
21. THOMPSON BASIN
22. OKANAGAN BASIN
23. OKANAGAN HIGHLAND
24. S. COLUMBIA RANGES
25. CENTRAL COLUMBIA MTNS.
26. PURCELL MOUNTAINS
27. N. COLUMBIA MTNS.
28. * E. KOOTENAY TRENCH
29. * S. ROCKY MTN TRENCH
30. BORDER RANGES
31. S. CONTINENTAL RANGES
32. N. CONTINENTAL RANGES
33. QUESNEL-SHUSWAP HIGHLANDS
34. * CARIBOO UPLAND
35. CENTRAL CARIBOO BASIN
36. * CHILCOTIN PLATEAU
37. * FRASER BASIN
38. NECHAKO PLATEAU
39. * BABINE-STEWART PLATEAU
40. BULKLEY TAHTSA RANGES
41. HAZELTON RANGES
42. NASS BASIN
43. * SUB-BOREAL SKEENA MTNS.
44. SPATSIZI PLATEAU
45. * S. OMINECA MTNS.
46. * N. OMINECA MTNS.
47. N. ROCKY MTN. TRENCH
48. CENTRAL ROCKY MTNS. & FOOTHILLS
49. N. ROCKY MTNS.
50. NORTHERN FOOTHILLS
51. PEACE PLATEAU
52. FORT NELSON LOWLAND
53. LIARD UPLAND
54. LIARD PLAIN
55. CASSIAR MTNS.
56. STIKINE -YUKON PLATEAUS
57. TAGISH-TAHLTAN HIGHLANDS
58. BOUNDARY RANGES
59. ST. ELIAS RANGES



Key: SATISFACTORY ..... 13 LANDSCAPES; NEAR SATISFACTORY ... 4 LANDSCAPES; PARTIAL ..... 15 LANDSCAPES; INADEQUATE ... 27 LANDSCAPES

*no areas of interest suitable for landscape representation have been identified in these landscapes

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

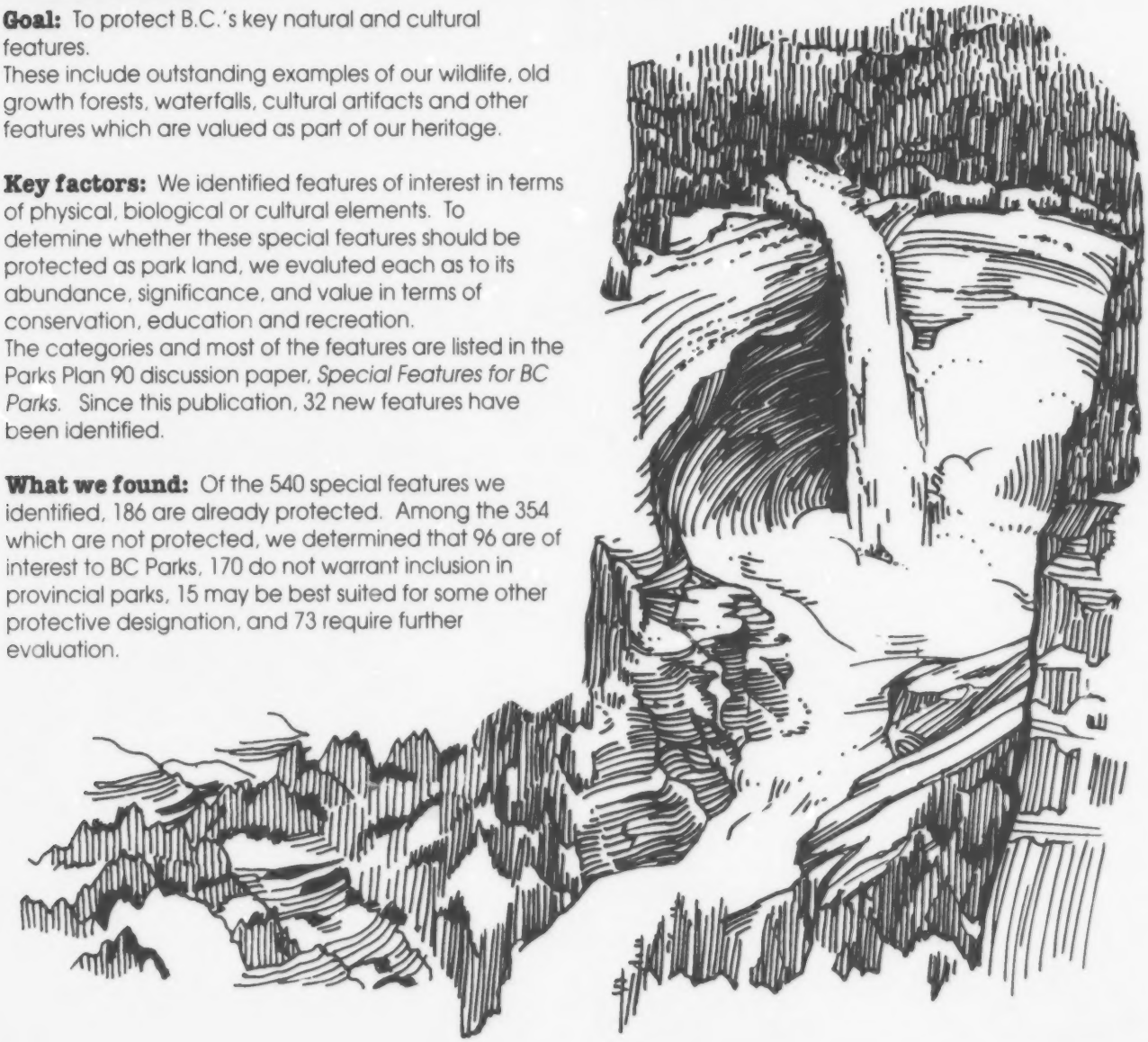
Further details of the landscape evaluation are available upon request and at our public meetings. We'd like your ideas on ways to meet this goal. Have we identified the correct study areas? Have we missed any areas?

Conservation Goal 2
Special Features

Goal: To protect B.C.'s key natural and cultural features.
These include outstanding examples of our wildlife, old growth forests, waterfalls, cultural artifacts and other features which are valued as part of our heritage.

Key factors: We identified features of interest in terms of physical, biological or cultural elements. To detemine whether these special features should be protected as park land, we evaluted each as to its abundance, significance, and value in terms of conservation, education and recreation.
The categories and most of the features are listed in the Parks Plan 90 discussion paper, *Special Features for BC Parks*. Since this publication, 32 new features have been identified.

What we found: Of the 540 special features we identified, 186 are already protected. Among the 354 which are not protected, we determined that 96 are of interest to BC Parks, 170 do not warrant inclusion in provincial parks, 15 may be best suited for some other protective designation, and 73 require further evaluation.



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Additional information on special features evaluation is available on request and at public meetings. Our evaluation of special features is preliminary. Please help us. Have we found the right special features? How can we improve the evaluation criteria? Are the categories we created appropriate?

Recreation Goal 1 Tourism Travel Routes

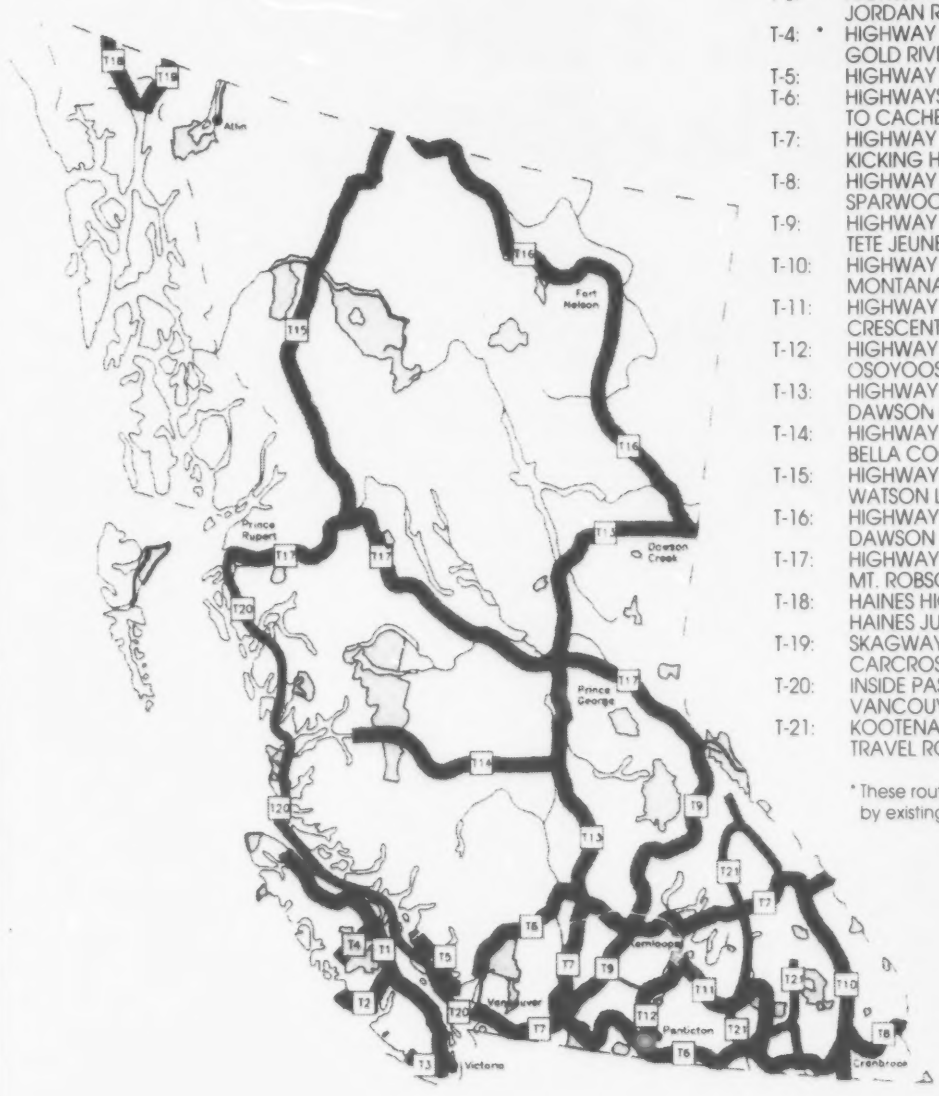
Goal: To provide park attractions and services which enhance tourism travel routes.
We would like to help B.C. build a world-wide reputation for offering tourism opportunities along major highways, lakes and the Coast. As managers of some of the province's finest land, we can enhance travel routes by focusing the efforts of the public and private sector.

Key factors: We identified B.C.'s tourism travel routes and the key recreation themes of each, such as wildlife viewing, boating or camping. We then determined how well our existing parks capture or provide for these themes.

What we found: Key recreational themes are well represented on three of the province's 21 major travel routes. We're proposing study areas to help meet the shortcomings of the remaining routes.

These areas are shown on the main map.
For further information, see our Parks Plan 90 discussion paper *Recreation Goals for BC Parks.*

Tourism Travel Routes



T-1: HIGHWAYS #1 + #19 (ISLAND HIGHWAY): VICTORIA TO CAPE SCOTT
T-2: * HIGHWAY #4: PARKSVILLE TO TOFINO
T-3: * HIGHWAY #14: VICTORIA TO JORDAN RIVER
T-4: * HIGHWAY #28: CAMPBELL RIVER TO GOLD RIVER
T-5: HIGHWAY #101: LUND TO GIBSONS
T-6: HIGHWAYS #99 + #12: VANCOUVER TO CACHE CREEK
T-7: HIGHWAY #1 + #7: VANCOUVER TO KICKING HORSE PASS
T-8: HIGHWAY #3: PRINCETON TO SPARWOOD
T-9: HIGHWAY #5: HOPE TO TETE JEUNE CACHE
T-10: HIGHWAY #95 + #93: GOLDEN TO MONTANA BORDER
T-11: HIGHWAY #6: VERNON TO CRESCENT VALLEY
T-12: HIGHWAY #97: SHUSWAP LAKE TO OSOYOOS
T-13: HIGHWAY #97: CACHE CREEK TO DAWSON CREEK
T-14: HIGHWAY #20: WILLIAMS LAKE TO BELLA COOLA
T-15: HIGHWAY #37: KITWANGA TO WATSON LAKE
T-16: HIGHWAY #97: ALASKA HIGHWAY: DAWSON CREEK TO WATSON LAKE
T-17: HIGHWAY #16: PRINCE RUPERT TO MT. ROBSON
T-18: HAINES HIGHWAY: HAINES TO HAINES JUNCTION
T-19: SKAGWAY ROAD: SKAGWAY TO CARCROSS
T-20: INSIDE PASSAGE MARINE TRAVEL ROUTE: VANCOUVER TO STEWART
T-21: KOOTENAY RESERVOIRS BOATING TRAVEL ROUTES

* These routes appear to be adequately served by existing parks.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Our evaluation of tourism travel routes is preliminary. You can help us identify key travel routes and recreation themes, evaluate existing park land and select study areas to meet any shortcomings. Public review will result in a revised list of study areas.

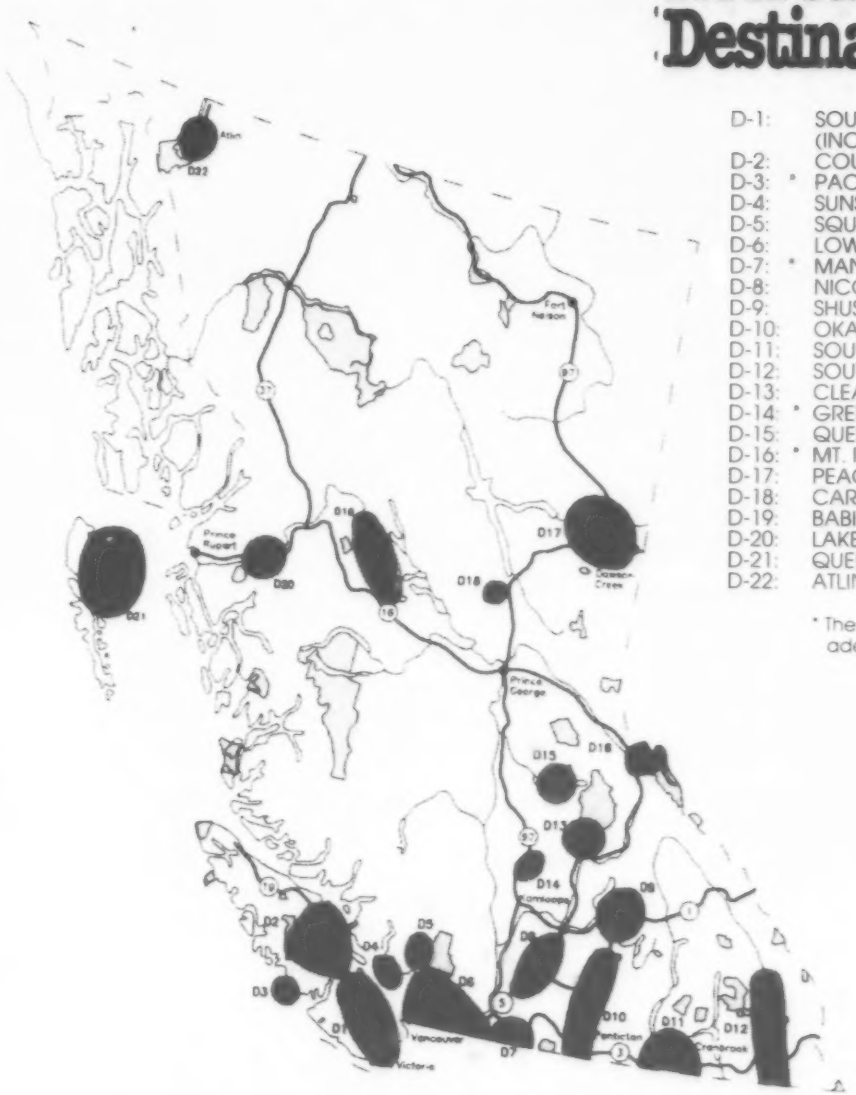
Recreation Goal 2
Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destinations

Goal: To provide park attractions which serve as or improve key destinations for outdoor recreation holidays.
We want to help the province build a reputation for world-renowned natural holiday destinations.

Key factors: BC Parks looked at areas which could serve as recreation holiday destinations. Some destinations are served by parks alone, while others are made up of both parks and private attractions. We examined how well our existing parks and protected areas provide key recreation resources or attributes of each destination. We also considered the other private and public sector suppliers.

What we found: We identified 22 destination areas
for outdoor recreation holidays. Many destination areas already have a provincial or international reputation. Others, which are not well defined or serviced, have the potential to attract people for extended vacations.
Four areas appear to be adequately represented in the existing park system, while 18 require additional lands to achieve their potential. We're proposing study areas (on the main map, reverse) to help fulfil this goal.

Outdoor Recreation Holiday Destination Areas



D-1: SOUTHEAST VANCOUVER ISLAND (INCLUDING SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS)
D-2: COURTENAY TO CAMPBELL RIVER
D-3: * PACIFIC RIM
D-4: SUNSHINE COAST
D-5: SQUAMISH/WHISTLER
D-6: LOWER MAINLAND
D-7: * MANNING
D-8: NICOLA VALLEY
D-9: SHUSWAP LAKE
D-10: OKANAGAN VALLEY
D-11: SOUTHWEST KOOTENAYS
D-12: SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH
D-13: CLEARWATER/MAHOOD
D-14: * GREEN/BRIDGE LAKE
D-15: QUESNEL/HORSEFLY LAKE SYSTEM
D-16: * MT. ROBSON
D-17: PEACE COUNTRY
D-18: CARP LAKE
D-19: BABINE LAKE
D-20: LAKELSE
D-21: QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS
D-22: ATLIN

* These destination areas appear to be adequately served by existing parks

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Our evaluation of outdoor recreation holiday destinations is preliminary. Please help us identify key destination areas, evaluate existing park land and select study areas to meet any shortcomings. Public review will result in a revised list of study areas.

Recreation Goal 3 Backcountry

Goal: To provide outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities throughout the province.
We want to build the province's reputation for backcountry recreation by protecting and managing our most outstanding wilderness areas. Some sites may feature adventure tourism, while in other areas the wilderness would remain untouched.

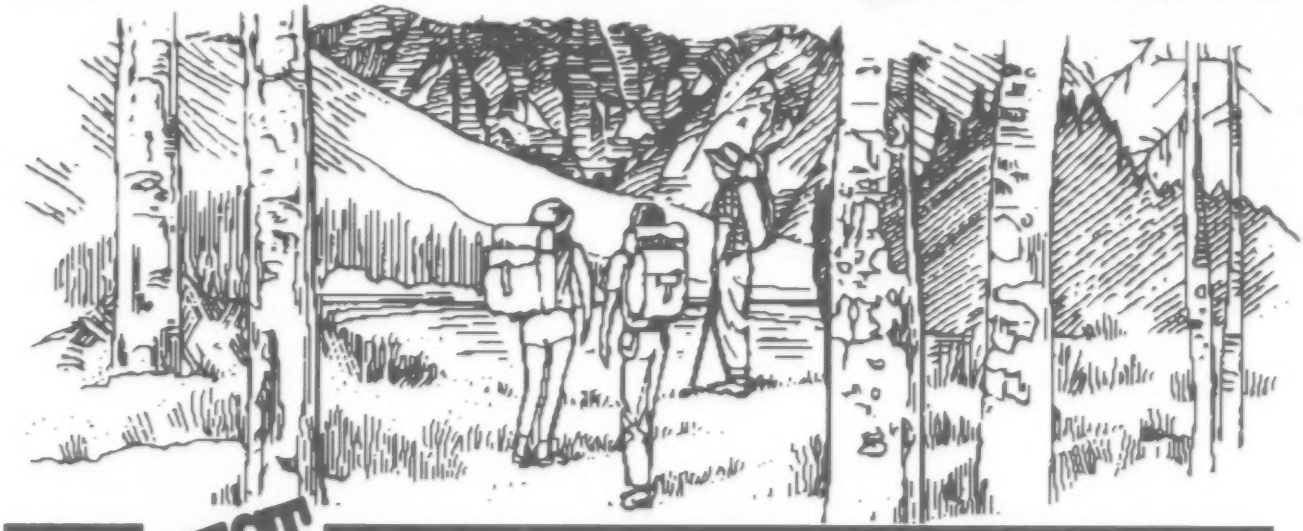
Key factors: BC Parks looked for large areas of provincial or national significance which could provide year-round backcountry recreation opportunities. These could include backpacking, climbing, heli-hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting and ski touring.

What we found: Our existing park system has 50 provincial parks which provide outstanding adventure recreation opportunities in backcountry areas. Many other areas which meet our goals for backcountry recreation also meet our conservation goal of protecting large representative examples of B.C.'s 59 distinct landscapes.
Our preliminary evalution has identified 41 Study and Inter-Agency Areas, shown on the main map (reverse).

In addition, further investigation of the following areas will allow us to determine if they should also be listed as study areas:

- Mount Ronayne
- Kyuquot Sound Sites
- Raft Cove Addition
- Kakwa-Robson (Boundary)
- Yanks Peak
- Laurier Pass
- Pitt-Anger Islands
- Brent Mountain
- Knudsen Lake
- Burnie Lakes
- Porcher-Stephens Islands
- Dundas Island
- Wales-Pearse Islands
- Obo-Johiah Lakes
- Dall-Denetiah Lakes
- Work Channel/Leverson Lake

The areas listed under Conservation Goal 1 — Landscapes are also being investigated to identify additional study areas for backcountry opportunities.



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Our evaluation of backcountry recreation opportunities is preliminary. Please help us review and refine our list. Public review will result in a definitive list of study areas for possible inclusion in our park system.

Recreation Goal 4
Local Recreation

Goal: To ensure access to local outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of this province.

Key factors: BC Parks believes people in every region of the province should have opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation near their homes. We will work with other levels of government to ensure basic recreation needs are met.

What we found: The vast majority of existing provincial parks provide local outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition, many of the study areas identified in the examination of other recreation and conservation goals will help contribute to local recreation.
We identified 46 existing parks (listed below) which exclusively serve local needs. Due to their local significance, BC Parks will help to ensure they are maintained as parks (or sites open to the public for recreation) in perpetuity, but we will actively search for a more appropriate agency to assume responsibility and management.

Southern Interior
Appledale
Bridge Lake Centennial
Brilliant Terrace
Celista
Elko
Erie Creek
Gardom Lake
Inonoaklin
Lardeau
Mara Point
Nakusp Hot Springs
Pearse
Sutherland Hills
Truman Dagnus Locheed

South Coast
Arbutus Grove
Beaver Point
Bright Angel
Chaster
Chemainus River
Eves
John Dean
Kawkawa
Kin Beach
Kitty Coleman
Koksilah
MacDonald
Matheson Lake
Memory Island
Morden Colliery
Mouat
Petroglyph
Sumas Mountain
Wood Mountain

Northern B.C.
Andy Bailey
Canim Lake
Deadman's Island
Downing
Dunlevy
Ethel F. Wilson Memorial
Hyland River
Moose Heights
Pure Lake
Ruth Lake
Spencer Tuck
Tarahne
Wisteria

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Please write to: **Minister of Parks**
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

Draft Working Map

PARKS PLAN 90

DECEMBER 1990

This map considers parks – one component of B.C.'s mosaic of protected areas. Some other ways B.C. protects land are as ecological reserves and forest wilderness areas. The map and text summarize for public and inter-agency review and comment the preliminary evaluation of our provincial park system. It also identifies potential additions to the park system which would help achieve our goals. This analysis and the Ministry of Forests' analysis of Wilderness Study Areas will be amended before a final action plan is prepared.

Study Areas

These are locations which BC Parks is satisfied would help meet one or more of our goals, but which must receive further review. Study Areas are either large (potential parks greater than 1,000 hectares) or small.

Large Study Areas would potentially help meet the landscapes conservation goal and/or the backcountry recreation goal. If Cabinet approves these Study Areas in principle, they will require intense public and interagency review, led by BC Parks, to determine costs, benefits, boundaries or whether an alternative land designation is more appropriate. In accord with the government's "evaluation before designation" policy, mineral potential will be thoroughly investigated before large study areas are considered for park status.

Small Study Areas potentially contribute to recreation or special feature conservation goals. The normal interagency review may be sufficient before designation as park. These areas may be exempt from the mineral evaluation process.

Inter-Agency Study Areas are locations where government is already involved in an intensive review of land and resource use. BC Parks will either co-chair or participate in these reviews.

Large Existing Parks already meet one or more of our conservation and recreation goals. We have 390 provincial parks which cover 5.6 million hectares. Altogether 6.6 percent of B.C. is protected by a government or agency.

The Role of the Public

Public review and assessment of all potential impacts of this draft evaluation will help establish a complete list of Study Areas and their relative priority as additions to the park system. These priorities will vary, depending on factors like future recreation demands or imminent resource development.
Public meetings will be held throughout B.C. in early 1991.

Parks and Forests working together

Since both ministries have a mandate to protect wilderness, the two ministries are working together publicly to integrate their analyses.
The final analysis will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Ministry of Parks

Scale: 1 : 2,000,000

APPENDIX 3

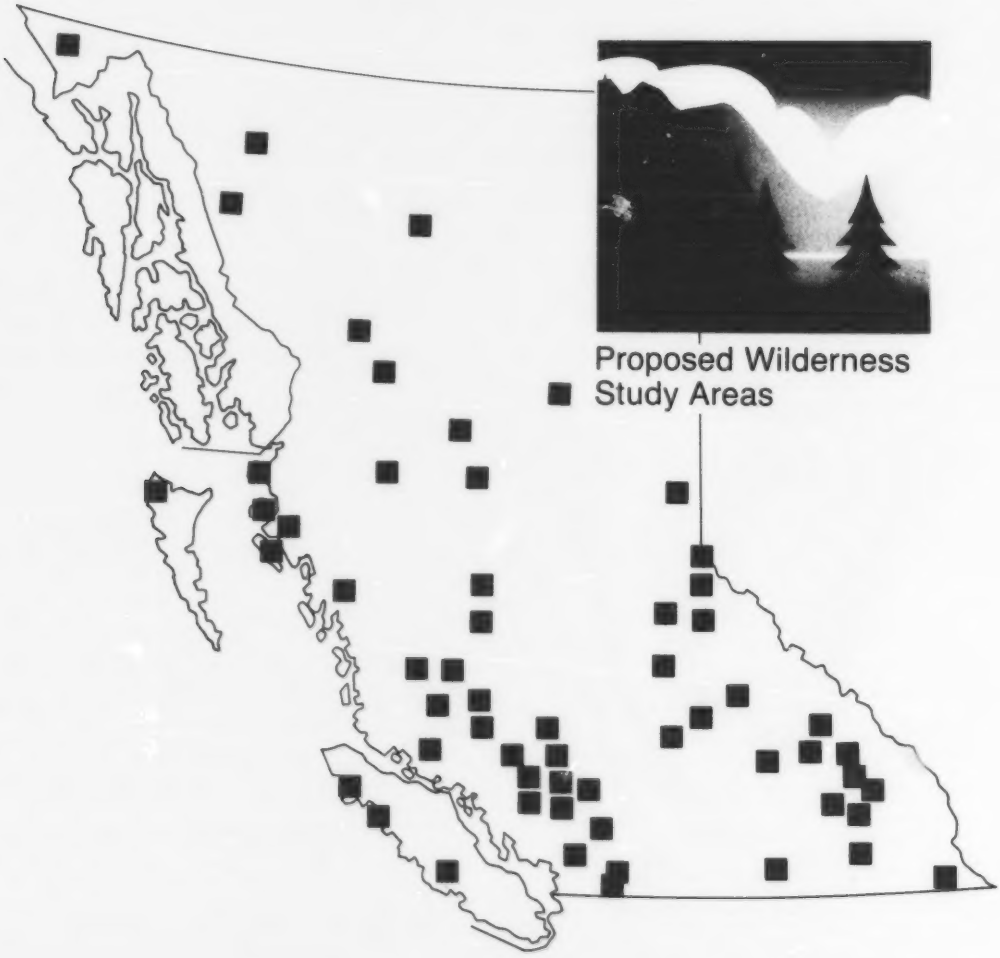
WILDERNESS FOR THE '90s

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Wilderness for the '90s

Identifying One Component of B.C.'s Mosaic of Protected Areas

December 1990



Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Forests

Identifying One Component of B.C.'s Mosaic of Protected Areas

Wilderness is one component of British Columbia's mosaic of protected areas. Parks, ecological reserves and wildlife management areas also protect provincial lands

The map shows - after a review of numerous public submissions and discussions with agencies - wilderness study areas proposed by the British Columbia Forest Service.

It has been published for your review and comment.

The text on the reverse side outlines the Forest Service's role in wilderness planning.

The wilderness study areas proposed here and the park study areas proposed by B.C. Parks in Parks Plan '90, will be revised, based on public input, before an action plan is developed and presented to the provincial cabinet.

Wilderness planning

The Forest Service considers wilderness as one of many resources that are examined in planning and managing provincial forests.

The steps for wilderness planning are:

Step 1 Identification:

- proposals for wilderness areas from the public, licensees and other agencies are considered, priorities are established, and an overall game plan is set for initiating detailed studies of individual wilderness study areas;

Step 2 Assessment:

- detailed studies are carried out for individual wilderness study areas and recommendations are made to cabinet regarding protected area designation;

Step 3 Management:

- a wilderness management plan is developed, implemented and monitored for each designated wilderness area.

Proposed wilderness study areas

These are areas within B.C.'s provincial forests where the Forest Service thinks detailed studies should be carried out and recommendations made to cabinet regarding protected area designation.

The Forest Service is proposing a number of areas for detailed study based on:

- wilderness legislation and policy;
- submissions from the public;
- comments from other agencies;
- existing integrated resource management plans;
- Forest Service recreation and wilderness inventories; and
- other resource inventories.

These studies will identify, assess and compare all resource values in each area.

They will be carried out by the Forest Service in cooperation with other agencies and the public.

For those areas where proposed wilderness and park study areas overlap, the Forest Service and B.C. Parks will carry out joint studies.

Based on the outcome of these studies, recommendations will be made to cabinet regarding protected area designation.

Working together

Both the Forest Service and B.C. Parks are responsible for protecting and managing the province's wilderness resources. Therefore, we are working together, and with you the public, to produce the most appropriate mosaic of protected areas for the province.

We need your input

The province's wilderness is a public resource. We want to protect and manage it on the basis of what you feel is most appropriate.

At this time, we need your views on our proposed wilderness study areas.

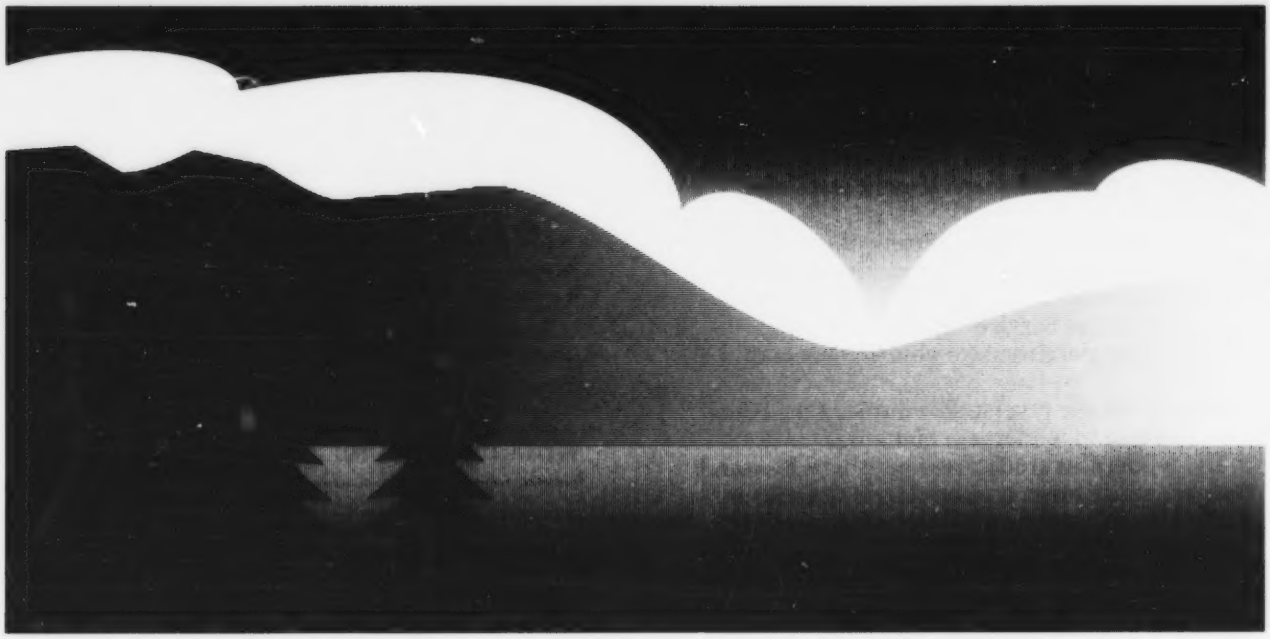
Together, the Forest Service and B.C. Parks will hold information meetings throughout the province in early 1991 to get your ideas, views and concerns. After considering your comments, we will make appropriate revisions and then present an action plan to the provincial cabinet.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the recreation officer at the Forest Service office nearest you.

Beyond wilderness study areas

This map of proposed wilderness study areas does not show numerous other well-known areas where wilderness issues are being addressed through other processes already underway.

These include such high-profile areas as the Khutzeymateen Valley, the Babine River, the Seven Sisters area, Clayoquot Sound, the Tetrahedron area, the Ospika River area and the East Slope backcountry area.



What is wilderness?

Wilderness, in its simplest terms, is a condition of naturalness and remoteness.

Much of the meaning of wilderness has to do with two questions:

- How remote and natural does an area have to be before it is considered wilderness?
- Should you preserve wilderness or use it?

Much of wilderness management has to do with seeking a consensus on these questions.

Wilderness is a nature preserve. At the same time it is a place for present and future generations to use and enjoy.

It is a place where natural ecological processes are in control and humans are visitors.

Wilderness is individual and personal. Each of us understands, values, and uses wilderness in our own way, either directly or vicariously.

Wilderness is generally recognized as having a wide range of psychological, social, cultural, economic and scientific values and uses.

These include:

- protecting examples of natural landscapes and special features;
- preserving unique ecosystems and rare species;
- conserving natural areas for education and research;
- providing opportunities for recreation and solitude;
- providing a resource base for tourism;
- preserving the heritage and cultural values of native and rural populations;
- knowing that wilderness exists for yourself and for future generations to enjoy; and,
- knowing that wilderness exists for its own sake.

What is wilderness management?

Wilderness management is more than just setting land aside and leaving it alone.

Wilderness must be managed to minimize the impact visitors have on the environment and on each other.

Wilderness management also means resource management.

Protecting wilderness values affects all activities within a wilderness area, such as grazing and subsurface resource use, as well as fish and wildlife resources, and cultural and heritage sites.

A key challenge in managing wilderness is to determine the role of wildfire in wilderness and to develop appropriate fire-management and pest-management strategies.

To protect your wilderness we must:

- learn more about wilderness - wilderness research;
- find out what wilderness resources we have and where they are - wilderness inventory;
- decide where and how much wilderness is most appropriate - wilderness planning; and,
- take care of each wilderness area - wilderness management.

The long-term values of wilderness areas to our society and the world will be their naturalness, their wildness, and their protection from human influence.

We need to better understand these values. And we must strive to minimize human influence even while we provide visitors with the opportunity to enjoy and experience the wilderness.

The Wilderness Mosaic

Some attributes of natural landscapes need special attention if we want to preserve them for the future benefit and enjoyment of British Columbians. They include:

- wilderness;
- old-growth forests;
- biological diversity;
- cultural and heritage features; and,
- scenic beauty.

To do this, the provincial government has a mosaic of categories of protected areas. The Wilderness Advisory Committee, in its report *The Wilderness Mosaic* (1986), emphasized the need for such a mosaic - a multi-category and multi-agency approach to wilderness management.

In the United States, *The Wilderness Act* (1964) also established a mosaic approach to managing wilderness in their National Wilderness Preservation System.

British Columbia's current mosaic of protected area categories includes:

- provincial parks;
- recreation areas;
- wilderness areas;
- ecological reserves; and,
- wildlife management areas.

Having a mosaic of categories rather than a single, 'protected' category provides flexibility in addressing the province's diverse land-use issues.

It enables the land manager to plan for different mixes of uses in different areas. For example, it may be in the public interest to manage a particular area by prohibiting mineral exploration and public road access, whereas in another area the public interest may best be served by allowing mineral exploration but prohibiting public road access.

Within this mosaic, the overall strategy for managing wilderness has been built around two main wilderness categories:

	• **Provincial park wilderness**	• **Provincial forest wilderness**
Responsible agency	• B.C. Parks	• Forest Service
Enabling legislation	• *Park Act*	• *Forest Act*

The 'provincial park wilderness' refers to areas within parks that are zoned for wilderness management.

Not all parks are established exclusively for their wilderness values. Many parks (or zones within a given park) have roads and are developed to facilitate and promote recreation use.

Large parks are designated to protect the province's most outstanding and best representative natural landscapes and features. This may include, but is not limited to, wilderness.

Wilderness areas in provincial forests are designated exclusively to preserve wilderness values. These wilderness areas are also designed to protect representative and unique natural environments, and thereby contribute to government's overall protected area strategy.

'Provincial forest wilderness', relative to provincial park wilderness, is a less protected land-use category with fewer restrictions in use.

The decision as to the most appropriate protected area category for an area is based on:

- wilderness values;
- other resource values; and,
- public preferences.

There is no simple distinction for choosing one wilderness category over another. A number of factors must be considered.

Park and forest legislation and policy set out both similarities as well as differences between 'provincial park wilderness' and 'provincial forest wilderness'.

Provincial park wilderness	Provincial forest wilderness
Similarities:	
• No commercial timber harvesting • No public roads • Restricted or prohibited motorized access and use	
Differences:	
• No subsurface resource use (e.g. no mineral, coal or petroleum exploration or development).	• Subsurface resource use not prohibited but carefully regulated.
• No trapping or grazing (existing use phased out over time).	• Existing trapping and grazing may be allowed.
• Area-specific objectives and guidelines established in Park Master Plans.	• Area-specific objectives and guidelines established in Wilderness Management Plans.
• B.C. Parks manages all resource uses (e.g. commercial recreation use administered by B.C. Parks subject to Park Master Plan).	• Normal agency jurisdictions prevail (e.g. commercial recreation use administered by Ministry of Crown Lands subject to Wilderness Management Plan).
• B.C. Parks prohibits hunting in wilderness conservancy zone but allows hunting in wilderness recreation zone subject to Park Master Plan.	• Hunting may be allowed, subject to Ministry of Environment regulations and Wilderness Management Plan.

The Forest

Background

The Wilderness Advisory Committee, established by the provincial government to study key wilderness issues and to make recommendations, brought into focus the wilderness issue in British Columbia.

The provincial government, in response to the committee's report, *The Wilderness Mosaic* (1986), developed an overall strategy for managing wilderness. This included wilderness in provincial parks and provincial forests.

On August 17,1987, the *Forest Act* was amended to recognize wilderness as a distinct resource and legitimate land use. The amendment also gave the Forest Service the responsibility to consider wilderness in its management of public forest lands.

In 1988, the Forest Service prepared a discussion paper on wilderness policy and distributed it for public review and comment.

In December 1989, the Forest Service announced its wilderness policy, titled *Managing Wilderness in Provincial Forests: A policy framework*. This policy took into account the comments received on the discussion paper.

At the same time, the Forest Service announced it would develop an overall wilderness plan that would identify wilderness study areas.

This draft working map, and the wilderness study areas that it proposes, is the Forest Service's preliminary evaluation of areas where detailed studies are most needed.

At present there are three wilderness areas designated under the *Forest Act:* the Height-of-the-Rockies, the Lower Stein and the Upper Stein.

In addition, a detailed study has been completed for the Swan Lake area in the Prince Rupert forest region. The study resulted in a recommendation for wilderness area designation.

Mandate

Under the *Ministry of Forest Act*, the Forest Service is responsible for planning the coordination and integration of all resource values and uses, including wilderness, in co-operation and consultation with other agencies and the public.

As part of this mandate, the *Forest Act* (Sections 3 and 4) identifies wilderness as a distinct resource and a legitimate use of provincial forests.

Under the *Forest Act* (Section 5.1), the provincial cabinet may formally designate wilderness areas within provincial forests. Under Section 5 (4), areas not formally designated may be zoned and managed as wilderness. Subsurface resource uses

Service Wilderness Program

in wilderness areas are not specifically prohibited (Section 5.2). However, these uses must meet all existing guidelines, regulations, and permits, and must stay within the intent of wilderness designation.

Purpose

The Forest Service wilderness program's purpose is to maintain and protect wilderness resources, in relation to other uses of provincial forests, to provide maximum overall benefits to British Columbians.

Goals

The Forest Service wilderness program's primary goals are to:

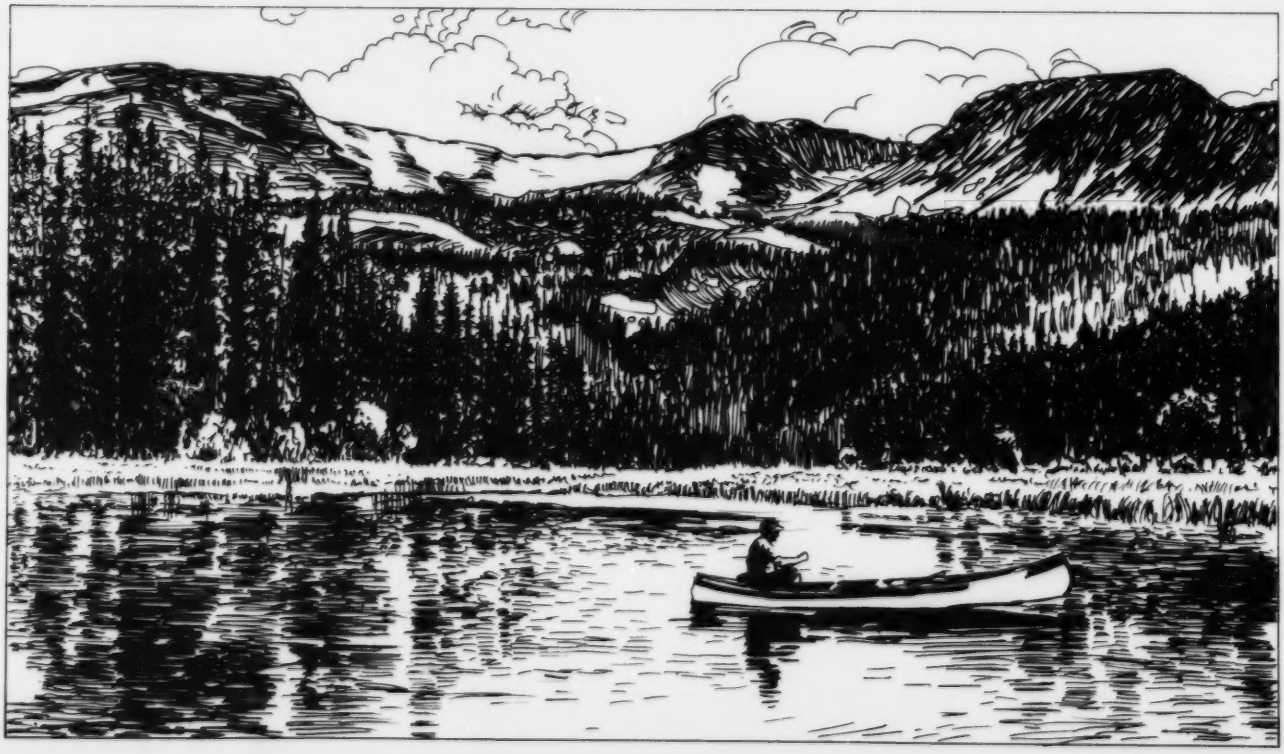
- preserve representative examples of the province's diverse natural landscapes;
- maintain biological diversity;
- protect special or unique features; and,
- provide opportunities for a wilderness experience (this includes meeting the greater demands which may be placed on wilderness resources doser to population centres).

The Forest Service wilderness program must work co-operatively with other wilderness programs, such as B.C. Parks' management of provincial park wilderness, to ensure that the provincial government's overall conservation and recreation goals are met.

Objectives

The Forest Service wilderness program's main objectives are:

- research:
  - to assess the value, use, and demand for wilderness;
- inventory:
  - to develop and maintain an inventory of wilderness;
- planning:
  - to identify and assess wilderness resources;
  - to make recommendations to the provincial cabinet regarding protected area designations;
  - to ensure that wilderness is considered in integrated resource management plans; and
- management:
  - to prepare, implement and monitor a Wilderness Management Plan for each designated wilderness area.



Balancing resource uses

Managing B.C.'s extensive forest lands for varied and often competing resource uses sometimes requires difficult trade-offs. For example, managing areas for wilderness which contain commercial timber means forgoing those timber values. Conversely, extending roads into currently natural, un-roaded lands forgoes wilderness values.

To protect wilderness values, therefore, means forgoing other important values and uses, including:

- commercial timber harvesting;
- road-accessible recreation opportunities; and,
- intensive habitat modifications to enhance fish, wildlife, water, or other resource values.

It is a difficult challenge to find the right balance. Issues must be identified, resource capabilities assessed, people's values and needs taken into account and options developed before land use decisions are made.

Your involvement in this difficult challenge is essential.

All things considered

This draft working map focuses on the Forest Service's wilderness planning and how it fits within the Forest Service's overall responsibilities.

The Forest Service is the chief steward of B.C.'s extensive provincial forests. These lands cover about 85 per cent of the province and include not only forested lands, but also large stretches of alpine areas, wetlands and open range lands.

The Forest Service, as the lead planning agency, is responsible for coordinating and integrating the uses of all resources on these publicly-owned lands in a way that seeks to achieve the highest social, economic and environmental benefits.

The Forest Service is also specifically responsible for managing three resources:

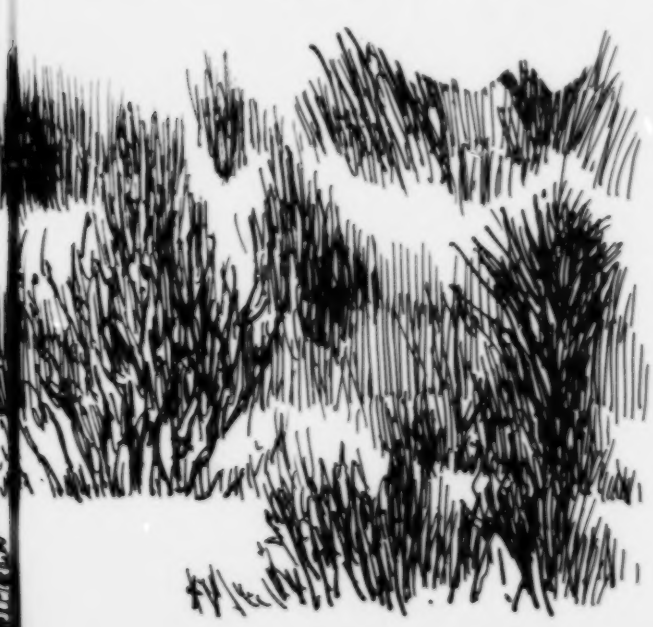
- timber;
- forage; and,
- recreation (including landscape aesthetics and wilderness).

In addition, it is responsible for integrating the management of the wide spectrum of other resources, including:

- fish;
- wildlife;
- water;
- energy and minerals; and,
- cultural and heritage resources.

The Forest Service works with other government agencies, industries and the public to plan and manage for the best mix of uses in provincial forests.

It thus protects and manages wilderness values as part of its responsibilities for providing a balance of uses of your provincial forests.



What is integrated resource management?

Integrated resource management is a decisionmaking process in which all resources are identified, assessed and compared before land-use or resource management decisions are made.

The result is a mosaic of land uses and resource priorities that functions similarly to zoning in urban areas.

The goal of integrated resource management is to provide sound resource stewardship and achieve a balance of uses on provincial forests.

Integrated resource management includes:

- assessing land capability for short- and long-term use;
- identifying current resource uses and priorities while keeping an eye on future needs and demands; and,
- considering social, economic and environmental needs.

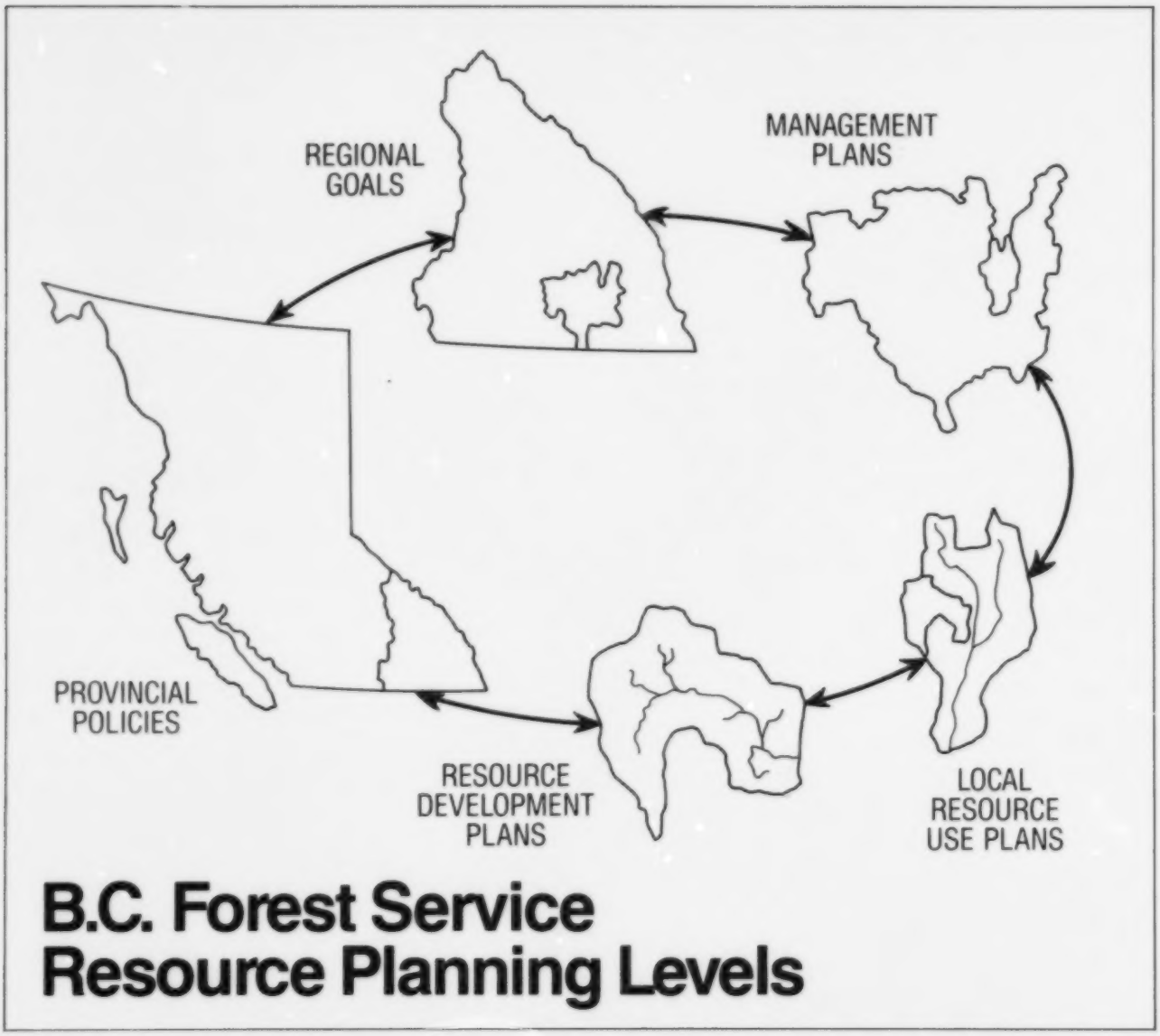
How does integrated resource management work?

Integrated resource management is carried out through a formal, resource planning process.

It is a multi-level process where priorities established at each level influence those set at all other levels.

These integrated resource management planning levels are:

- provincial policies:
  we develop Forest Service policies and programs in keeping with government's policies and social goals (example: wilderness policy);
- regional goals:
  we establish integrated resource management goals, consistent with Forest Service policies and in consultation with other agencies, for each of our six forest regions (example: the wilderness study areas proposed for each forest region);



B.C. Forest Service Resource Planning Levels

- management plans:
  we establish strategic direction for the Forest Service's stewardship of various resources, including wilderness, through:
- resource management plans for each of the 35 timber supply areas; and,
- management and working plans for each of the 32 tree farm licences;
- local resource-use plans:
  we establish area-specific integrated resource management objectives and guidelines - for areas such as watersheds or travel corridors - to resolve resource conflicts and to enable more detailed planning to proceed (example: detailed studies for wilderness study areas); and
- resource development plans:
  we detail the logistics for resource management - whether they are timber-harvesting development plans, recreation-site development plans, or wilderness management plans (example: the Height-of-the-Rockies Wilderness Management Plan).

How does wilderness fit in with integrated resource management?

Integrated resource management does not mean multiple-use on every hectare or in every drainage. It means the careful consideration of all resources in close consultation with the public - and results in a regional mosaic of land uses, with some areas managed for their wilderness values.

Wilderness, therefore, is one of the many resource values that is considered at each integrated resource management planning level.

Protecting wilderness values, where appropriate, therefore, is one of the products of integrated resource management.

Getting in touch

The Forest Service has decentralized many of its functions so it can manage your resources more effectively and help decision-making at the field level.

A province-wide network of six regional offices and 43 district offices provides services at the local level and responds to local needs.
Please get in touch with any of these offices to ask any questions you may have about wilderness planning or to discuss any of the wilderness study areas proposed on this draft working map.

Contact your nearest Forest Service office, or write to:

Ministry of Forests
Integrated Resources Branch
1450 Government Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 3E7

We need your ideas

Wilderness in provincial forests is a public resource. We need your ideas to effectively plan and manage wilderness in balance with other uses of provincial forests.

The benefits of wilderness are individual and personal.

Government alone cannot determine the areas needing wilderness study or determine how wilderness should be managed.

We need your help.

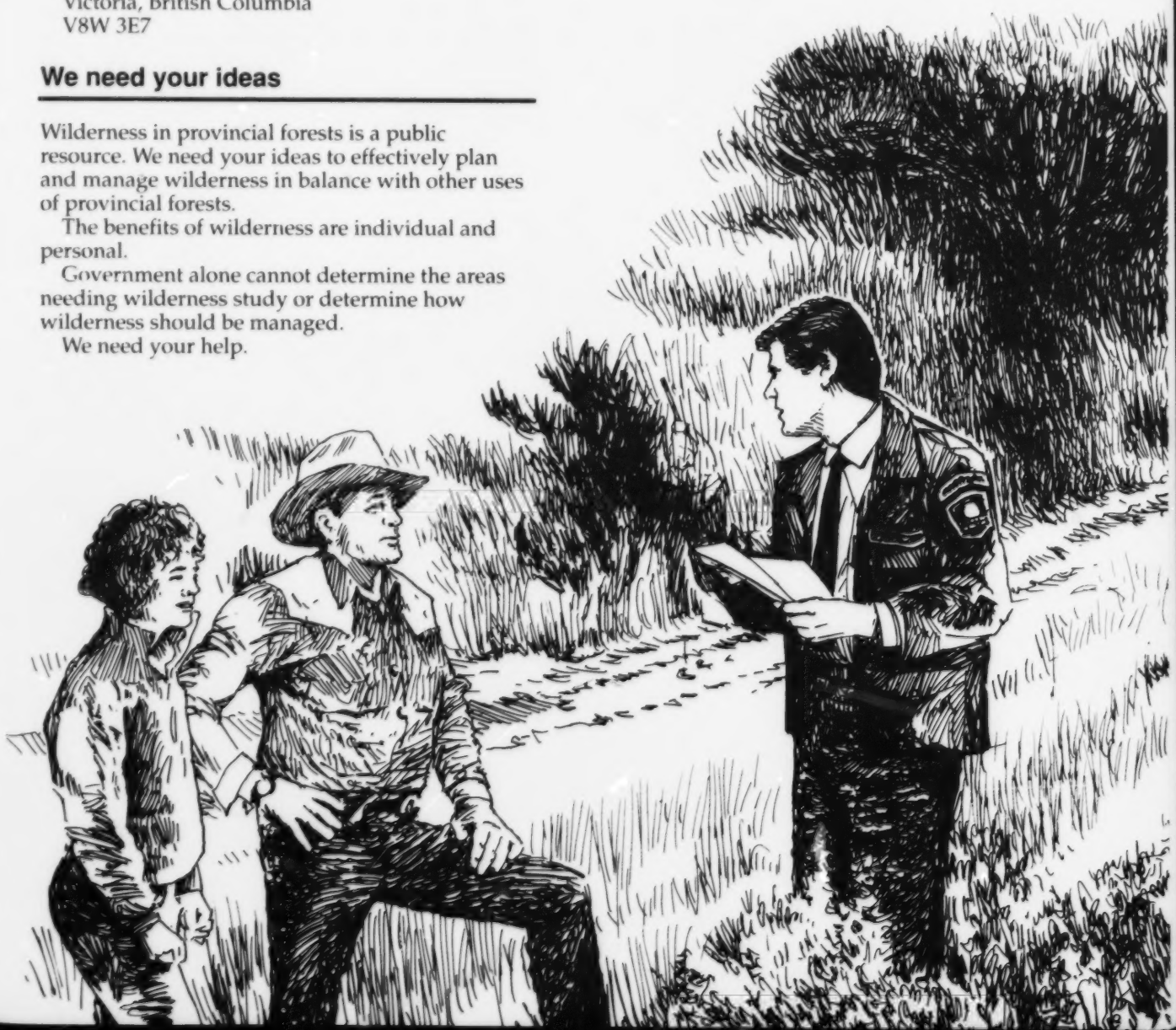
Where do we go from here?

The purpose of this draft working map is to get your views on *Wilderness for the '90s*.

Early in 1991 the Forest Service and B.C. Parks will meet the public and discuss *Parks and Wilderness for the '90s* - the two main components of B.C.'s mosaic of protected areas.

We will carefully assess the comments received and make appropriate revisions before an action plan is prepared and presented to cabinet.
Your ideas will continue to guide us in interpreting our wilderness mandate and deciding how to manage wilderness values in provincial forests.

We would, therefore, appreciate comments at any time that can help us in adapting and updating our wilderness planning.



APPENDIX 4

PUBLIC EVENT LOCATIONS

AND SAMPLE COMMENT SHEET

PROVINCIAL PARKS & WILDERNESS FOR THE 90s

January 1991 - No. 3 - Update by the Ministry of Parks and the Ministry of Forests

IN THIS ISSUE:
Details on public meetings to shape the future of parks and wilderness

Meetings scheduled throughout B.C.

Why should you attend?

This is your opportunity to talk to the staff who are responsible for identifying areas to be studied for proposed provincial park and wilderness area designation. It's also a chance to hear from others in your community.

This step gives you a chance to comment on:

- the system planning process;
- whether the objectives of the park and wilderness area systems need to be refined;
- whether proposed study areas accurately encompass signficant park and wilderness values and features;
- which areas should be priorities for action.

No decisions will be made about boundaries, land uses or designation until further study on each area.

How can you contribute?

At open houses, you can talk informally with staff from BC Parks and the BC Forest Service. At public meetings, you may wish to ask questions or make a brief statement. At either forum, we'd like you to fill out our "concerns sheet" to tell us what interests or concerns you the most.

What happens at an open house?

Open houses are your chance to view displays and background reports, and to discuss your views informally. Any aspect of either Parks Plan for the 90s or Wilderness for the 90s, or any specific Study Area can be discussed in detail.

What happens at a public meeting?

Public meetings are more formal. BC Parks and the Forest Service will make brief presentations highlighting the work we've done. There will be time for you to ask questions.

In addition, there will be an opportunity for formal presentations. To ensure that everyone who wishes to comment can do so, we ask that presentations be brief and that groups select one person to represent their interests. If you plan to make a formal presentation, you may register beforehand with a BC Parks office, or simply register at the meeting.

Is this my last chance to contribute?

No: this is one more step in a process of public discussions. We invite you to send us written submissions until April 15. You may also want to again meet with our staff to discuss your concerns and interests. In addition, open house materials will remain on display at regional viewing centres throughout the province.

When we have completed our meetings and received your comments, we'll prepare a summary of what we heard. We'll send this summary to everyone on our mailing list.

Following this review, future area-specific studies will be scheduled, and public participation will be an important component in each case.

Lower Mainland

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Lower Mainland** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

Feb 12	Maple Ridge	old library, Centennial Arena bldg. 11963 Haney Pl
Feb 14	Burnaby	Holiday Inn/Metrotown 4405 Central Blvd
Feb 19	Surrey	Surrey Inn 9850 King George Hwy
Feb 21	Vancouver	McGill Theatre, Robson Sq. 800 Robson St

For more information, or to register, please call 463-3513.

Shaded areas indicate communities with both day and evening meetings.

Preserving Our Living Legacy

Ministry of Parks
Hon. John L. Savage

Ministry of Forests
Hon. Claude Richmond

Help shape the future of

Fraser Valley

An open house, beginning at **3 pm,** will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm**.

For more information, or to register, please call 858-7161.

Feb 20	Chilliwack	Paystreak Rm, Holiday Inn, 45920 - 1st Ave

Open houses will be held from **3-8 pm** at these centres:

Feb 12	Abbotsford	Kings Cross Social Ctr, 1515 College Dr
Feb 14	Hope	Hope Golf & Country Club Golf Course Rd

Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast

An open house, beginning at **3 pm,** will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm**.

For more information, or to register, please call 898-3678

Feb 21	Squamish	Garibaldi Highlander Hotel, 40330 Tantalus Way

Open houses will be held from **3-9pm** at these centres:

Feb 13	Powell River	Powell River Rec Complex, 5000 Joyce
Feb 14	Sechelt	Rockwood Ctr, 5511 Shorncliffe
Feb 20	Whistler	Whistler Conference Ctr, 4010 Whistler Way

Southern Vancouver Island

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Vancouver Island** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 387-4363.

Feb 12	Nanaimo	Bowen Park complex, 500 Bowen Rd
Feb 14	Duncan	Silver Bridge Inn, 140 TransCanada Hwy
Feb 19	Victoria	Conference Ctr, 720 Douglas St
Feb 20	Port Alberni	Echo Ctr, 4255 Wallace St

*open house begins at 3 pm in Port Alberni only

Northern Vancouver Island

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Vancouver Island** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 755-2483.

Feb 12	Port McNeill	Lions Hall, 2897 Mine Rd
Feb 14	Campbell River	St. Patrick's Hall, 34 South Alder
Feb 18	Tofino/Ucluelet	Wickaninnish Ctr, end of Wickaninnish Rd, Ucluelet
Feb 20	Courtenay	Filberg Centre, 411 Anderton Ave

An open house will be held from **2-7 pm** in Gold River

Feb 13	Gold River	Community Hall, 500 Muchalat Dr

Okanagan

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Okanagan** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 494-0321

Feb 12	Vernon	Vernon Lodge, 3914-32nd Street (Hwy 97)
Feb 14	Kelowna	Sandman Inn, 2130 Harvey Ave.
Feb 15	Penticton	Trade and Convention Ctr, 273 Power
Feb 18	Merritt	Civic Ctr, 2185 Voght
Feb 19	Princeton	Arena (Mezzanine), Old Hedley Rd.
Feb 21	Keremeos	Victory Hall, 7th Ave
Feb 22	Osoyoos	Community Centre, foot of Main St.

An open house will be held from **6 to 9 pm** in:

Feb 11	Cherryville	Community Hall, 158 North Fork Rd

Open houses will be held from **2-9 pm** in:

Feb 13	Peachland	Peachland Community Ctr, 4450 6th Street
Feb 20	Oliver	Community Centre, 36003-79th St

Shaded areas indicate communities with both day and evening meetings.

Parks and Wilderness for the 90s

West Kootenay

Open houses beginning at **2 pm** at these **West Kootenay** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 825-4421.

Feb 11	Creston	Recreation Centre, 319 N 19 Ave
Feb 13	Nelson	Heritage Inn, 422 Vernon
Feb 14	Castlegar	Sandman Inn, 1944 Columbia
Feb 15	Trail	Terra Nova Motor Inn, 1001 Rossland
Feb 27	Revelstoke	Recreation Centre, 600 Campbell Ave

Open houses will be held from **6 to 10 pm** at the following:

Feb 18	Grand Forks	Yale Hotel, 174 Market St
Feb 19	Greenwood	MacAuthur Hall
Feb 20	Crawford Bay	Community Hall
Feb 22	Kaslo	Legion Hall, 403-5th St
Feb 25	New Denver/Silverton/Slocan	Silverton Municipal Hall
Feb 26	Nakusp	Senior Citizen's Hall

East Kootenay/Columbia

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **East Kootenay** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 422-3212.

Feb 12	Golden	East Kootenay Community College 1419-11th Ave
Feb 13	Invermere	Community Hall
Feb 14	Cranbrook	Inn of the South ballroom 803 Cranbrook St N
Feb 19	Kimberley	Centennial House, 100 Coronation Park
Feb 20	Elkford	Elkford Motor Inn, 812 Michel
Feb 21	Fernie	Old Elevator, 291-1st Ave.

Thompson River

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm,** will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 828-4494.

Feb 12	Clearwater	Flag Inn, 228 E Yellowhead Hwy
Feb 14	Salmon Arm	Shuswap Inn, 551 TransCanada Hwy NE
Feb 18	Merritt	Civic Centre, 2185 Voght
Feb 20	Lillooet	School District Resource Centre, 472 Main
Feb 28	Kamloops	Coast Canadian Inn, 339 St Paul

Open houses will be held from **6-9 pm** in:

Feb 11	Blue River	Legion Hall, Pine Street
Feb 13	Barriere	Legion Hall
Feb 15	Chase	Town Hall, 809 Shuswap
Feb 19	Gold Bridge	Hydro House, LaJoie Ave
Feb 19	Tatla	Community Hall
Feb 22	Ashcroft	Community Hall, 409 Bancroft St.
Feb 26	Sicamous	Our Lady of Fatima Hall, 705 Cherry
Feb 27	Lytton	Parish Hall, 140-7th St.

Cariboo

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Cariboo** sessions, will be followed by public meetings at **7:30.**

For more information, or to register, please call 398-4414.

Feb 11	100 Mile House	Red Coach Inn
Feb 12	Quesnel	Legion Hall 242 Kinchant
Feb 16	Williams Lake	W.L. Jr. Secondary School *In Williams Lake, the open house will begin at 2pm; the meeting will end at 8:30
Feb 19	Tatla	Community Hall
Feb 21	Bella Coola	Lobelco Hall

An open house will be held from **10 am to 1 pm** in:

Feb 19	Nemiah	Band Office

An open house will be held from **noon-3pm** in:

Feb 18	Big Creek	Community Hall

Cariboo

Open houses will be held from **4-9 pm** in:

Feb 13	Wells	Barkerville Elem. School
Feb 14	Likely	Community Hall
Feb 14	Horsefly	Community Hall
Feb 15	Clinton	Clinton Library
Feb 15	70 Mile House	Community Hall
Feb 18	Alexis Creek	Community Hall *starts at 5 pm
Feb 20	Anahim Lake	Anahim Lake School
Feb 22	Bella Bella	Bella Bella Sch. Activity Rm *ends at 8pm in Bella Bella

Prince George

Open houses, beginning at **3 pm**, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 565-6340

Feb 11	Vanderhoof	Nechako Valley Secondary School auditorium, 2608 Bute
Feb 13	Prince George	Holiday Inn, Cranbrook Rm
Feb 18	Valemount	Valemount Secondary School Library, 1300-6th Ave
Feb 19	McBride	McBride Junior Secondary School auditorium

An open house will be held from **3-5 pm** in:

Feb 11	Fraser Lake	Fire Hall, 55 Endako Ave

Open houses will be held from **4-8 pm** in:

Feb 12	Fort St. James	National Historic Park Visitor Ctr, Chief Kwah Rd
Feb 14	Mackenzie	Ernie Bodin Community Ctr, Room 1, Centennial Dr

Peace/Liard

Open houses, beginning at **3 pm** at these **Northern BC** sessions, will be followed by public meetings starting at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 787-3407

Feb 11	Fort St John	Pioneer Inn, 9830 100 Ave
Feb 13	Fort Nelson	Town Hall (Town Square)
Feb 19	Dawson Creek	George Dawson Inn
Feb 20	Chetwynd	Recreation Centre, 4552 N Access
Feb 21	Tumbler Ridge	Rec Centre Main Lounge

Peace/Liard

Open houses will be held from **7-10 pm** in:

Feb 14	Toad River	Community Hall, Mile 422 Alaska Hwy
Feb 18	Hudson Hope	Hudson Hope School, 10101-103rd Ave

Skeena

Open houses, beginning at **2 pm** at these **Skeena** sessions, will be followed by public meetings at **7:30 pm.**

For more information, or to register, please call 847-7320.

Feb 11	Smithers	Hudson Bay Lodge, 3251 Hwy 16
Feb 12	Hazelton	National Exhibition Centre K'san Grounds, Hwy 62
Feb 13	Terrace	Inn of the West, 4620 Lakelse
Feb 13	Houston	Houston Motor Inn, 2940 Hwy 16
Feb 14	Kitimat	Riverlodge Community Ctr, 660 Columbia
Feb 14	Granisle	Council Chambers, 1 McDonald
Feb 15	Prince Rupert	The Crest, 222-1st Ave W
Feb 16	Masset	Community Centre
Feb 17	Queen Charlotte City	Queen Charlotte School
Feb 18	Stewart	Winter Club Arena
Feb 19	Dease Lake	Community Hall
Feb 20	Cassiar	Cassiar Community Club
Feb 21	Atlin	Atlin Recreation Centre
Feb 22	Burns Lake	Art Gallery meeting room, 540 Yellowhead Hwy

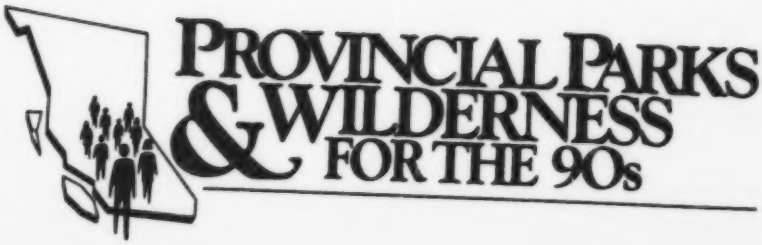
An open house will be held from **noon-3 pm** in:

Feb 14	Aiyansh	Band Council Main Hall

Open houses will be held from **2-5 pm** in:

Feb 19	Iskut	Community Hall

Shaded areas indicate communities with both day and evening meetings.



COMMENT SHEET

We would like to know your views about **Provincial Parks and Wilderness for the 90s**. Information on this program is being presented today through displays, maps, brochures and staff discussions.

In providing your comments, please refer to the two draft working maps, **Parks Plan 90** and **Wilderness for the 90s**.

This is an opportunity for you to express your views and offer suggestions about protecting Provincial Parks and Forest Service Wilderness areas.

Please drop this form in the box at this meeting or return it to:

Provincial Parks and Wilderness for the 90s
P.O. Box 77
800 Johnson St.
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4

Q.1 First we would like to know if you have any comment about BC Parks' mandate, goals or planning process as identified in the **Parks Plan 90** Draft Working Map? (Please use this space to tell us your comments.)

Q.2 Do you have any comments about the BC Forest Service Wilderness Program as presented in the Wilderness For The 90s draft working map?

If additional space is required please use the back or staple extra sheets to this form.

Q.3 BC Parks has proposed 33 large study areas, 75 small study areas and 9 interagency study areas on the **Parks Plan 90** Draft Working Map. The B.C. Forest Service has also proposed 59 study areas in their **Wilderness For The 90s** draft working map. Do you have any comments about any of these areas?

Q.4 Please tell us about any other provincially significant areas you feel should be set aside. Describe each area using names of lakes, rivers, mountain peaks, towns, etc. to help define their location. It is very important that you explain WHY you want each area set aside as a Provincial Park or Forest Service Wilderness Area.

If additional space is required please use the back or staple extra sheets to the form.

Q.5 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about setting aside areas in B.C. as Provincial Parks or Forest Service Wilderness Areas? (Also, feel free to use any remaining space on this page if required to answer any of the previous questions starting with the question number.)

Meeting location: _____ Date: _____

Please print your name and address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Your comments are greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!
Please drop this form in the box at this meeting or return it by mail.